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SCRAP BOOK

72-77a-P.F.M.
#45
Special Occasions III -
300th Anniversary II
continued, Family
Reunions

II.

Academy of Arts and Sciences Spends Three Days on the Island

The sudden and unexpected announcement by Soviet Russia Sunday night that they had landed a rocket on the moon failed to cause any great concern to members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences at a meeting of the organization at Sea Cliff Inn.

While many of them did not wish to be quoted they did express a great deal of doubt as to the truth of the Russian claims. One scientist bluntly stated the rocket was being used as a "propaganda tool," and that 'science was being subverted to provide a nice send-off for Khrushchev on his trip to the U.S."

A total of 192 Academy members, their families and invited guests were registered at the Sea Cliff for the three-day conference and meeting which they called "The Nantucket Pilgrimage of the Academy of Arts and Sciences."

The pilgrimage started Sunday afternoon at Woods Hole with the scientists and their guests being shown through the Oceanographic Institute by the director, Dr. Paul M. Fye. The group was also taken aboard the Woods Hole research vessel, "Atlantis" and the French research vessel, "Calypso," now at Woods Hole and skippered by the famous underwater explorer, Jacques Y. Cousteau. After their tour of the vessels and the Institute laboratories the scientists boarded the "Nantucket" for a pleasant ocean voyage to the island.

A dinner was served at the Sea Cliff Inn and later all retired to the Ball Room to pay homage to Maria Mitchell, a native of Nantucket, who was the first woman fellow of the Academy from 1818 to 1889.

Robert Lloyd, manager of Sea Cliff Inn, said there were 248 served at the dinner and by actual count 265 attended the speaking part of the program.

Dr. Harlow Shapley, Paine Professor of Practical Astronomy, Emeritus, at Harvard University, served as Master of Ceremonies and first called on Dr. Jacob Fine, chairman of the committee on arrangements, to give an outline of the program planned for the Academy members.

Dirk Brouwer, Director of the Yale Observatory and Chairman of the Astronomical Committee of the Maria Mitchell Observatory, gave a very vivid description of Maria Mitchell as an astronomer.

Director Brouwer said Maria Mitchell was a diligent observer, "who had spent many hours of sweeping in the sky before her efforts were rewarded with the priority discovery of a new comet." Mr. Brouwer continued, in part:

"One reason for devoting so much attention to Maria Mitchell's comet is that, beyond the discovery and the fact that Miss Mitchell computed a provisional orbit for her own comet, no further details concerning this celestial object are found in either the necrology in Volume 25 of the Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (of which she had been elected a Fellow in 1848), nor in Miss Helen Wright's excellent biography of Maria Mitchell, 'Sweeper in the Sky.'

"Maria Mitchell lacked many of our modern educational advantages. Her early training in astronomy she received from her father, William Mitchell, a teacher of unquestioned ability and of high culture, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and for many years one of the overseers of the Harvard College Observatory. Next, Maria Mitchell was a pupil of Cyrus Peirce, later the Principal of the first Normal School in Nantucket; for the rest she was largely self-taught.

"Two years after the discovery of the comet, she was invited by Alexander Bache, head of the Coast Survey, to participate in a Coast Survey project in Maine. That same year, Professor Benjamin Peirce was instrumental in securing an appointment for her with the Nautical Almanac, then located in Cambridge, Mass. Both activities she kept up for many years. Her assignment with the Nautical Almanac office consisted in part of the calculation of the ephemeris of Venus.

"These connections and her contacts with the Bonds at Harvard were of the right kind to stimulate further study in astronomy. Yet, we can well undestand that when, in 1865, she jointed the faculty of newly opened Vassar Female College, she was not at all certain she had the ability to teach. Actually, she turned out to be perhaps the most successful woman teacher of astronomy of the past century.

"Teaching astronomy in those years could be rather dull compared with the teaching of modern astronomy. Much of the emphasis was on the celestial sphere and its various motions, on the measurement of positions of stars, planets, and comets, all of which necessarily involved a good deal of computation. This must have been a substantial part of the fare that Maria Mitchell offered her students.

"The intricacies of all this appeal to few young people, and it takes a good instructor to make the students see the forest for the trees. I believe the secret of Maria Mitchell's success as a teacher was that she grasped every opportunity to make her students aware of the grandeur of the sidereal universe, and of the physical aspects of the celestial bodies."

Mr. Brouwer went on to say there was enough evidence to conclude that Maria Mitchell was ahead of most of her contemporaries in the profession and taught more astrophysics than the textbooks of that era contained.

He concluded with the observation that he could not refrain from speculating about the kind of career Maria Mitchell would have had if she lived a century later and was born in 1918 instead of 1818. He predicted she would have been an outstanding student in high school and college and would have been one of the nation's top astrophysicists.

Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University scientist and President of the Academy, presented a bronze plaque to the Maria Mitchell Association to honor the memory of the first woman to be elected to the Academy. Charles G. Snow, President of the Maria Mitchell Association, accepted the plaque on behalf of the Association.

The final speaker of the evening was Dr. Mary I. Bunting, Dean of Douglass College, Rutgers University, and President-elect of Radcliffe College in Cambridge.

Dr. Bunting who has made a name for herself with her biological research, is regarded as one of the foremost women educators in the country and was recently featured in a "Life" magazine article.

Dr. Bunting discussed "Women in Research and Learning," and in the course of her address made a stirring plea for a greater interest by scientists and educators in encouraging women to seek a higher education particularly in the sciences and research work. She urged steps be taken so qualified girls can enter college at the age of 15 and secure their college degree before turning to marriage and the running of a home.

Dr. Bunting also recommended that women in their 30's who are college graduates and whose families are fairly well grown up be encouraged to return to college and seek their Masters and PhD degrees.

She expressed grave concern over the large number of "drop-outs" of girls in high school and college and asked the learned audience if "a different yardstick is used in evaluating college education for men and women."

In the latter part of her speech, Dr. Bunting said:

"We recognize from all our tests that girls are not only receptive to learning but they mature earlier in many ways. Should we hold them back in school to a pace that boys can manage? Would we, if it were the other way around? What if our separate women's colleges were to make the necessary changes in curriculum and open their doors to bright girls who had completed two or maybe three years of school so they could get a bit ahead before they take on the responsibilities of marriage and home. The 14-year-old now goes steady. Why shouldn't she go to college?

"And in college, have we recognized that they now come because it is the thing to do? Have we built fresh courses for the girls in science that might kindle their latent interest and show them the satisfaction of creative work? Does it make sense particularly for eager pleasers to plan that only those who master the details will get a chance to find out whether they can use them? Wouldn't it be wiser to try to find out which ones had creative ability and then give them the advanced knowledge?

"Scientific approaches have been useful in finding out things at every stage — we all need to find out things — even the sophomore drop-out, who gets married. Wouldn't it make sense to start at the other end?

"And after college: Has any group such as this Academy made an all-out effort to guide and encourage and assist the woman who wishes to continue her education, or to carry on research during the decade in which she has heavy responsibilities at home? It is not easy to do research part time but many have done so. Maria Mitchell had her dishes at home and her library job.

"If we believe 'a wasted shell, a misapplied ability is a threat to the capacity of a free people to survive' —then we must be concerned about the waste involved when able women do not use their talents. It is my hypothesis that the cure will come not from more concern about women as such, but from more concern about scholarship itself and the rights of individuals — including women."

The Sunday night session concluded with a reception for the Academicians by the Maria Mitchell Association at the hotel.

A very interesting symposium on the subject of the whale was attended by a large number of the visiting scientists Monday morning at the Unitarian Church.

Featured speakers were William E. Schevill, a Research Associate in Zoology at Harvard University and an Associate in Oceanography at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, who spoke on "Living Whales"; John W. Kanwisher, a Research Associate in Biophysics at Woods Hole, who discussed "Temperature Regulation in Whales"; and the world-renown heart specialist, Dr. Paul Dudley White, of Belmont, a heart consultant at the Massachusetts General Hospital, who naturally took for his topic, "Studies of the Heart of the Largest Mammal."

The scientific discussion of each speaker was accompanied by slides of the anatomy of a whale and color motion pictures showing whales and porpoises cavorting in the seas off Cape Cod, the Georges Banks, and in California waters. The movies included scenes of the actual shooting of electrode equipped spears into the backs of the large size gray whales in Dr. White's attempts to obtain cardiograms of the heart beat of a whale.

Mr. Schevill, the first speaker, told his associates of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: "The whale is the largest in size but the smallest in numbers in the animal kingdom. There is a theory the whale is a descendant of the ancient animal age of the dinosaur and the mastadon that for some unknown reason took to the water.

The principal food is the squid and they live in all depths of water, depending how far down they have to go for their food.

over

Mr. Schevill said one of the important discoveries by scientists is that whales make sound while swimming under water. To demonstrate this point he turned on a tape recording he made of the sounds made by both whales and porpoises that ranged from a clicking noise to grunts and snore-like sounds and also one he had of a sound like a whistle.

Mr. Kanwisher spoke on the subject "Temperature Regulation in Whales" and said they are mammals much like humans. He said they breathe fresh air and nurse their young. He said they are capable of controlling the temperature of their bodies because they can be found at the Arctic edge or at the equator.

Mr. Kanwisher said the blubber acts as an insulation for the whale while a system of veins serve as a thermostatic balance in control of its temperature. He said the large whales because of so much blubber, have heat to throw away. The small porpoise is able to develop a high rate of heat production.

To illustrate how the blood courses through the veins of a whale to supply heat, Mr. Kanwisher showed films of the arterial system in the body of these mammals.

Before turning to a discussion of his cardiographic research in to the heart of a living whale, Dr. White revealed that the huge heart of Molly, the once famous elephant at Franklin Park Zoo, in Boston, is still preserved in the Harvard Medical School and her skeleton is also at Harvard.

After telling briefly of his pathological studies of Molly's heart, Dr. White told in detail of his unsuccessful efforts to get the heart beat of a live gray whale.

He said he was a member of the expedition to Sampson's Lagoon in California, where he said between 500 and 1,000 whales go to rest and to raise their young when the Arctic waters get too cold. The expedition, he said, was sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Douglas Aircraft Corp.

His subsequent showing of movies taken at the scene revealed that thousands of dollars had been spent in the unsuccessful efforts to get the cardiogram of the live whale.

Included in the equipment used in the expedition was a huge air liner, two helicopters, a large yacht, and hundreds of dollars worth of the finest camera equipment available.

Dr. White showed the efforts to spear the whales with electrode-equipped spears were successful, but the heavy blubber prevented the spears from getting close enough to the heart to obtain cardiograms.

He showed charts of pulses recorded on the cardiogram, but said these were pulses from the nerves and muscles of the whales.

After a luncheon at the Sea Cliff Inn several small groups were organized to walk around town visiting historic points of interest. One group had a guided tour under the direction of Charles Sayles, another took the bicycle tour and the other walked about the town.

In the evening the Academicians heard a lecture and viewed color movies of "Life and Life Conditions in the Deepest Deep Sea" given by the Danish curator of the Zoological Museum of the University of Copenhagen, Dr. Torben Wolff.

Dr. Wolff startled his listeners when he said there was a possibility of a real sea serpent being caught some day and when it is captured it may well be off the coast of Peru. He said this area is most prolific in sea life.

The Danish marine biologist said that during a cruise of the research vessel, "Galathea" in 1950-52 they found marine life in the abysmal depths below 25,000 feet. The deepest fish were at 22,000 feet but at 34,000 feet in the Philippine Trench, a deep fissure in the sea bottom, there were a number of small crustacea and one bivalve found, showing that marine life would live at that depth.

The Nantucket Pilgrimage of the scientists came to an end Tuesday with a bus tour of the island and a lobster dinner at the Sea Cliff Inn.

Sept. 18, 1959

Editorial Comment

Abroad at Home

For the first time in its 179-year history, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences will go "abroad" to hold a meeting. Its members will journey this month to Nantucket to combine business with pleasure and to honor the first woman member, a native of the island, Maria Mitchell,



distinguished, self-taught astronomer, who died in Lynn, June 28, 1889.

She was the daughter of an amateur astronomer but grew to surpass her father in fame. The whaling industry gave navigation a great part in the lives of Nantucketers and the stars were often in their daily conversation. Astronomy was a natural bent for the daughter of such seafaring people and her father's hobby put several telescopes at her disposal. She won international honors and fame before Vassar College offered her one of its first professorships.

At the age of 30 she was voted a member of the Academy that will do her honor this month. She ranks high among New England's distinguished women. This tribute from "off islanders" is a timely episode in Nantucket's 300th year.—*Boston Globe.*

Sept. 11, 1959

Dr. Paul Dudley White Leads Bicycle Tour

A special feature of the meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences was a bicycle tour Monday afternoon led by Dr. Paul Dudley White of Belmont and State Representative and Mrs. Robert F. Mooney.

The 46 participants of the bicycle tour assembled at the corner of Main and Orange Streets and at a signal from Dr. White the tour was underway.

The group cycled along Orange Street to the State bicycle path on the Siasconset Road and traveled the length of the completed section of the path, then turned around to head back toward town.

Dr. White then led the group through Sparks Avenue and Vesper Lane to Hummock Pond Road and Cisco where they had a chance to view the surf. After a brief rest the bicycle enthusiasts rode back over Hummock Pond Road to town and went directly to the Maria Mitchell Observatory where tea was being served the visiting scientists.



Dr. Fred L. Whipple, director of the Smithsonian Astro-physical Observatory, was one of the learned scientists who followed Dr. White over the entire bicycle route.

Sept. 18, 1959

New Radcliffe President Urges More Science Careers for Women

By ARTHUR J. QUINN
Standard-Times Staff Writer

NANTUCKET, Sept. 19—Some time in the not too distant future, there may be a noticeable increase in the number of graduates of Radcliffe College who are seeking further education in the field of the sciences, instead of further matrimony.

The reason for such a theory lies in the fact that, starting next September, the destinies of famed girls' college adjacent to Harvard Yard in Cambridge, are going to be guided by a woman who followed such a path, after winning her A.B. degree. She is Mrs. Mary I. Bunting, just named president of Radcliffe to succeed the retiring president, Wilber Kitchner Jordan, next July. Mrs. Bunting is now dean of Douglas College at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.

In selecting Mrs. Bunting, the trustees of Radcliffe College have honored a woman who has successfully carried on a dual role as an educator and as a mother with unusual success.

Interviewed during her recent visit to Nantucket, where she appeared as the principal speaker at the opening of the annual conference of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Mrs. Bunting disclosed that when she received word she was being considered for the post of president of Radcliffe, it was "the nicest surprise I have ever received and an honor I had not anticipated."

Mrs. Bunting has been a widow for the past five years. Her husband died while he was serving as a professor of pathological research at Yale University.

Raised Four Children

When Dr. Bunting died, he left Mrs. Bunting with four children, three boys and a girl, the youngest, 7, the oldest 13. Faced with the prospect of raising her family and at the same time providing for their support, Mrs. Bunting quickly assumed her dual role as an educator by returning to the classroom and raising her family and keeping her home after school hours.

"I was not in the position of a woman who had servants living in. I did most of my own housework. There were no governesses caring for the children. I did have a woman come in and help out one or two days a week as she was needed.

"As the children have grown up they have each had to help out with the household chores and I feel this is the right way to bring children up. It makes them independent and helps in making them understand every boy and girl must stand on his or her own two feet. All children must be made to understand if they want to eat they have to work.

"As a matter of fact none of the children would sanction any suggestion of having servants living in the house. You would be surprised at how the boys can cook and wash dishes.

"As a matter of fact, Bill, only 14, served as the 'mess boy' on the Yankee this Summer. He will be entering Brown and Nichols School this month.

"Right now I am perhaps the busiest educator in the country. When I leave here I will be busy every minute until school opens getting the children off to school. Mary, 18, is entering the University of Vermont; Charles, 16, is going to Pingree School, in New York, and John is entering Rutgers Preparatory.

"When you have to get four youngsters ready to go away to school there is an awful lot of preparation to be done. But it is a lot of fun and it gives me a real feeling of happiness."

Turning the conversation to her new position as president of Radcliffe College, Mrs. Bunting said: "It is too early to do much talking about that at this time. I will say New England is not strange to me. I worked on biological research at Wellesley, where I taught for a year, while my husband was doing some work at Harvard and I was at Bennington College, in Vermont for a year. I also lived in Connecticut while my husband was at Yale Medical School."

Trend Deplored

Mrs. Bunting had just finished her talk before the scientists in which she deplored what she had described as the indifference of the general public in interesting college women to seek further and higher education in the sciences.

Demonstrating her profound concern for the apathetic attitude she feels exists towards women and education, she had bluntly asked academy members: "After college, has any group such as this academy made an all-out effort to guide and encourage and assist the woman who wishes to continue her education, or carry on research during the decade in which she has heavy responsibilities at home? It is not easy to do research part-time but many women have done so."

Mrs. Bunting knows what she is talking about. Even before the death of her husband, she was doing research and teaching along with her household duties.

Mrs. Bunting is also deeply concerned with the number of girl students who drop out of high school and college before graduating. She was also concerned because so many girls follow the vocational, rather than the college courses.

Asking "What can we make of all this?" Mrs. Bunting said, "Can we take the dropout itself as evidence of innate lack of curiosity? It may be but those of us who have watched masculine interest in becoming an engineer turned on and then turned off and then turned on again within just a few years can hardly be prepared to jump to conclusions about innate interest.



MRS. MARY I. BUNTING

Plans Differently

"Today as always, most women plan their lives differently from most men. They plan sometime to assume major responsibilities at home. True, modern technology has given her the possibility of new leisure—and a longer life-expectance—there is new time—and population pressures alone suggest that survival may depend on finding other creative outlets than the family, but at the same time the present level of knowledge—and even more the accelerating rate of acquisition of knowledge tend to discourage all but the most determined.

"There is a new conflict between a life of productive research and a life planned to emphasize home responsibilities for at least a decade. This is of course particularly true in the sciences, far less so in the less cumulative lines of scholarship such as literature or history. These are the real difficulties. We know now that girls are receptive to learning—that even through college they average better grades than boys although by this time the boys have almost caught up.

"And then it peters out.

"The thoughts expressed so well in the Rockefeller Report on Excellence in Education— that a society gets the kind of excellence it values—undoubtedly holds fully as well for a segment of society as for the whole.

"Have we valued devotion to research and learning on the part of women? What have the men in our colleges learned about liberal arts that they should prefer to have wives stay at home rather than use their learning? Is it accidental that so many of our most distinguished women scientists have had their early education abroad?

"If we believe that 'a wasted shell, a misapplied ability is a threat to the capacity of a free people to survive'—then we must be concerned about the waste involved when able women do not use their talents. It is my hypothesis that the cure will come not from more concern about women as such but from more concern about scholarship itself and the rights of individuals — including women."

Sept. 20, 1959
N.B.

200 Scientists At Nantucket

Many Are Doubtful Of Russian Rocket

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Sept. 14—The claim of the Russians that they had hit the moon with a rocket was the center of interest of about 200 scientists gathered here for the annual three-day conference of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Almost enmasse, they rushed into the downtown newspaper store to snap up morning editions. As they gathered, it was obvious that few of them were convinced that the claims of the Russians were true.

Most Are Doubtful

It appeared that most of them were extremely doubtful, and while none would be quoted directly for the record, there were repeated comments the rocket's radio might have been fixed to go off to create the effect that it had hit the moon.

The fact that the rocket was reported as being only one minute late in reaching its destination was a major contributing factor in creating doubt.

Dr. Harlow Shapley, nationally known scientist, said, "I think it is probably true that there has not been enough information yet to establish positive proof."

Mrs. Thomas Munroe of Cleveland, bluntly said "I don't think they did it."

One top astronomer, who refused use of his name, described the rocket as a "propaganda tool" and said "science is being subverted to give Khrushchev a nice send-off."

Dr. Bunting Speaks

A geologist said that a photograph of the rocket's impact on the moon could "help us determine much about the nature of the deposit on the moon's surface." He said that scientists "don't know how thick a mantle of dust there is on the moon. There may be several feet of dust," he added.

As for the business of the academy, a speaker at the first session was Dr. Mary I. Bunting, a

(Continued on Page 4)

interesting, as the academy has selected Nantucket for the conference in honor of island-born Maria Mitchell. She was the first woman fellow of the Academy (1818 to 1889) and an internationally know astronomer who did much to prove that science was a field open to women as well as men.

In a stirring tribute to Maria Mitchell, Dirk Brouwer, director of the Yale Observatory, described her as a self-educated woman who would have become an outstanding astrophysicist had she been born in the present century.

In recognition of Maria Mitchell's contribution in the field of astronomy, Kirtley F. Mather, president of the academy, presented a bronze plaque to Gerald C. Snow, president of the Maria Mitchell Association, in memory of Miss Mitchell.

mother of four and president-elect of Radcliffe College.

Dr. Bunting urged greater interest by the general public in seeking higher education for women.

Dr. Bunting, currently dean of Douglass College, Rutgers University, stated that since girls mature faster than boys and are equally bright, they could move from high school to college earlier and complete their education before marriage.

Names Maria Mitchell

She asked the academy fellows if any "fresh courses for girls in science existed that might kindle their latent interest and show them the satisfaction of creative work? And after college, has any group such as this academy made an all-out effort to guide the woman who wishes to continue her education or carry on research during the decade in which she has heavy responsibilities at home. It is not easy to do research part-time, but many have done so. Maria Mitchell had her dishes at home and her library job."

Sept. 15, 1959
N.B

Visiting Members Of Academy Listed

Members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and their guests who were here for the two-day convention of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences were:

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. William P. Allis, Mr. and Mrs. K. T. Bainbridge, Margaret Bainbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Henry I. Baldwin, Mrs. William C. Boyd, Dirk Brouwer, Anton F. Bruun, Mary I., William and Mary Bunting, Mr. and Mrs. John Chipman, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Claflin, Mr. and Mrs. George L. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. David G. Cogan, Christy and Priscilla Cogan, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Comstock and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Erickson.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Robley D. Evans, Ronald Evans, Stephen Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Fano, Brenda Boleyn, Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Fieser, Dr. Jacob Fine, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Furry, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Goodwin, Mary L. Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Heidt, David Heidt, Edward B. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Hoagland, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Mahlon Hoagland, Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Houghton and Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Ippen.

Also, Thomas H. Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Owen, Mr. and Mrs. John Kanwisher, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Keenan, Mr. and Mrs. B. Rightmire, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Keller, Mr. and Mrs. John Alden, Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Kirkland, Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Lamb, Franklin and Nina Lamb, George La Piana, Mrs. Albert B. Lord, John B. Lucke, Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Mangelsdorf, Mr. and Mrs. Kirtley F. Mather, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Means, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Mimno, Agnes Mongan, Charles Mongan and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Munro and Miss Munro.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nash, Holly Nash, Mr. and Mrs. Norman J. Padelford, Carolyn Padelford, Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Perkins, Lucy W. Pickett, Emma P. Carr, Jutte Muus, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rackemann, Mr. and Mrs. Norman F. Ramsey, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Raper, Mr. and Mrs. Lorrin A. Riggs, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Romer, Mr. and Mrs. William W. Rubey, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Rudenberg, William E. Schevill, Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Schultes and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander H. MacNeil.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Harlow Shapley, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Sherwood, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Winn, Robert R. Shrock, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Slater, Mr. and Mrs. C. Richard Soderberg, Mr. and Mrs. A. Warren Stearns, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Stearns, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz B. Talbot, Helen B. Taussig and Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Watson.

Also, C. D. West, Mr. and Mrs. S. Kitrosser, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Wheeler, Isabel L. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Whipple, Dr. and Mrs. Paul D. White, Mr. and Mrs. Walter G. Whitman, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Mead, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Whittington, Mr. and Mrs. D. V. Widder, Mr. and Mrs. Amos N. Wilder, Edwin B. Wilson, Enid Wilson, Torben Wolff and Mr. and Mrs. G. Wallace Woodworth.



THIS IS A COMET photographed from the Maria Mitchell Observatory; dubbed Comet Arend-Roland, it was photographed on April 30, 1957.

Sept. 15, 1959



Below—MISS MARGARET HARWOOD, retired director of the Maria Mitchell Observatory, checks the powerful telescope that will be available for look-sees by visitors this Summer.

Nantucket Hand Pumper Still Works

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Aug. 19—A hand-pumper fire engine of the vintage of the early 1800s, named the Cataract and manned by a crew of Coast Guardsmen and local citizens, proved it was still in working condition by winning at the Firemen's Muster.

It threw a stream of water a distance of 175 feet and 6 inches. Its competitor, the old Siasconset No. 1, sent a stream 144 feet long.

The competition was held on Straight Wharf with Henry Coleman, Philip C. Murray and Ernest Reed serving as judges.

Several hundred persons gathered at the wharf on both days of the contest and viewed the work of the two crews. Most everyone was surprised at the length of the stream and the power of the water at the hose nozzle. At times the water sprayed over the cars parked in the area and on the crowds.

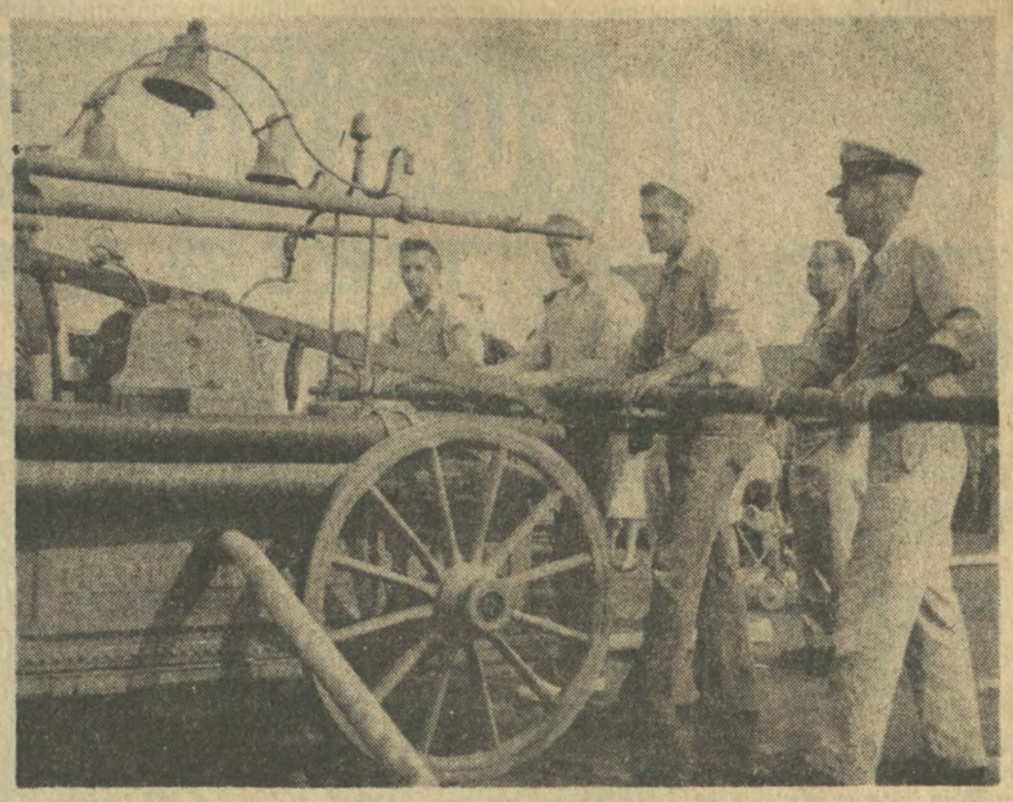
The winning crew was captained by Fire Chief Irving T. Bartlett while the losing crew was led by Harry Gordon, garage owner.

This event was sponsored by the 300th Anniversary Committee and the names of the winning crew will be inscribed on a scroll which will be placed in the Nantucket Historical Association Rooms.

Both old pumpers are the property of the association and although both were built in the early 1300s and were retired in the early 1900s, one of them, the Siasconset No. 1, was brought out of retirement in 1920 and was used to pump water on a bad fire in the village of Siasconset.

The crews were furnished by the Navy and the Coast Guard, as well but included other volunteers.

Aug. 19, 1959
N.B.



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

ANCIENT NANTUCKET FIRE ENGINE, the Cataract, won the contest for hand pumpers in the Firemen's Muster held at Straight Wharf on the island. Chief Boatswain Gordon Kenney of the Coast Guard, at right with cup, led the pumping crew to victory.

N.B.
Aug. 20, 1959



Before the Firemen's Muster last Sunday the opposing captains of the two teams got together on the hose of one of the old hand fire pumps to give it a final test. Left is Captain Harry Gordon, with Fire Chief Irving Bartlett at the right.

Aug. 21, 1959

400 *Persons Witness Old-Fashioned Battle By Fire Brigades Manning Antique Pumpers*

Stout hearted men laid to on the Cataract No. 6 and the Siasconset 1 in the Firemen's Muster Saturday and Sunday afternoons on Straight Wharf. Honors for shooting water the furthest distance went to the older hand pump of the two, the Cataract, bought by Nantucket in 1834, used in the great fire of 1846 and decommissioned in 1895.

Fire Chief Irving Bartlett commanded the winning crew, Harry Gordon the losers.

Because the nozzles weren't leveled up Saturday afternoon the contest then was considered a trial run and it was on Sunday's best two out of three results that judges Henry Coleman, Philip C. Murray and Ernest P. Reed made their decision.

In the first trial the Cataract pumped 175 feet 4 inches, the Siasconset 120 feet 10 inches. Both teams dropped back in the second attempt but the greater water capacity of the older engine gave it the edge over the lighter Siasconset. The Cataract shot water 166 feet, the Siasconset, 144 feet.

Between 400 and 500 people watched the teams, and heard George Jones 300th birthday steering committee chairman describe the event and the engines.

Mr. Jones is in charge of presenting a scroll to the winners bearing the names of the following crew members: Bill Richards, Bud Cloute, James M. Mayo, Frank Mather, Edgar Orpin Jr., Walter Cahoon, Jim Robertson, Dick Olson, Jim Nelson, Lawrence Lema, Robert Sandsbury, Charles Folger, Eldridge Norton, E. D. Moore, CEC, USN, and Mr. Bartlett.

An all Navy crew manned the smaller Siasconset under the command of Harry Gordon and included C. A. Hughes, P. E. Jones, P. Velez, K. E. Garnett, J. J. Deegan, D. R. Burrill, D. E. Burrill, J. F. Geortz, H. E. Ingalls, R. A. Hunt, J. Morrissette, C R. Kitteral, J. A. Cooper, H. Jerwonki, R. T. Smith, W. E. Cross, F. W. White, T. J. Stackpole, and P. V. McKenny.

The firemen spent several months repairing the antique engines, replacing the packing in the pistons and the leather plungers. They are now back in their usual positions in the basement of the Fair Street Museum.

Aug. 21, 1959

Firemen's Muster Provides Fun

Straight Wharf was the scene of a unique and exciting contest last Saturday and Sunday as eager men and boys supplied the man power to pump sea water in vigorous jets from two ancient fire engines.

On Sunday, Fire Chief Irving Bartlett's team on the "Cataract" used in the Great Fire in 1846 and finally retired in 1895, beat Harry Gordon's team of Navy men who were pumping with the old Siasconset No. 1, which finished its tour of duty in 1922, for the honor of having his team's name entered on a scroll to be presented to the Nantucket Fire Department. In a trial for the best two out of three tries, the score was: (1) Cataract 175 ft. 6 in., Siasconset 120 ft. 10 in.; (2) Cataract 166 ft., Siasconset 144 ft.

The day before, elimination trials had been held to determine who would compete. A serious omission must have been made, for after the teams of men had exhausted themselves competing for the scroll, a group of youngsters aged about 12 years and down, took over and sent the stream of water nearly as far. These young men, one of whom was only four, enjoyed the act so much, that while their confederates manned the engines, several ran in for a shower in front of the hose.

The two teams competing on Sunday were: Irving Bartlett, chief, Charles Folger, Walter Cahoon, Edgar Orpin, James Nelson, William Richard, Frank Mather, Mr. Hale, Dick Olson, James Robinson, Laurence Lema; Harry Gordon, chief, D. Jones, Rio Velez, K. E. Garnett, J. J. Deegan, D. R. Burrill, D. E. Burrill, J. F. Goertz, R. A. Hunt, T. N. Stackpole, Z. McKinney.

Aug. 21, 1959

Nantucket Island Will Re-Live Past Next Tuesday When Gala Main Street Fete Will Be Staged Again

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Aug. 8—For a few brief hours next Tuesday, Nantucketers will forget the hurlyburly life of the mid-20th Century as the Main Street Fete of yesteryear is revived as a major part of the island's 300th Brithday Anniversary. While previous fetes were sponsored by the Nantucket Cottage Hospital Thrift Shop and the proceeds used solely to help defray operating deficits of that institution, the Main Street Fete of 1959 is being sponsored by four organizations—the Nantucket Historical Association, the Nantucket Atheneum, the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Church, and, of course, the Hospital Thrift Shop.

Members of these groups have been augmented by hundreds of willing workers from other organizations and churches, and the Fete on next Tuesday will be the result of the co-operative effort of the island as a whole.

Costumes Featured

From 10 in the morning until 6 in the evening, Nantucket's historic Main Street will be closed to motor traffic from the head of the "Square" to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at the western end of the cobblestoned thoroughfare. Fringed surreys, horse-drawn, will be the only non-pedestrian means of transportation on Main Street that day.

Nantucketers—young and old—will appear dressed in costumes of 100 years ago. Many of these have been made during the past Winter and Spring months, carefully copied from gowns preserved in attic trunks or closets. Some will be the real thing, let out a bit here and there, perhaps, to fit the modern counterpart of Nantucket's whaling captains' families.

Costumed groups will sit on the steps of the famous "Three Bricks," as they may have done in the 1820s. At "Middle Brick" three generations of the Starbuck family will be seated together, at the entrance to the only one of the three still owned by direct descendants of the original builder. Other groups will be found on the porches behind the stately columns of the Hadwen mansions across the street.

Several Main Street's most interesting and charming houses will be open to the public. These include two on the right hand side of the street above the Monument. One of these is Seven Fires, the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Sibley, a house built more than 200 years ago. Here will be seen Mrs. Sibley's valuable collection of Bell flower glassware. The house next east to that of the Sibleys will also be open. Built in 1830, this is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Erik Huneker, of Washington, D. C.

One of the most interesting, and the oldest, of the houses to be shown is that at the east corner of Main and Gardner streets. Now the Summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kilvert Jr., of Providence, it was built in two sections—the older part in 1690, and the newer in the early 1700s.

Favorite of Authors

The house next door, the famous Macy House, is a favorite of artists and photographers, for it has a most beautifully designed fan over its doorway. Mrs. Julian Harris is the present owner of the lovely old house.

her telescope more than 100 years ago.

In each of these homes friendly costumed hostesses will greet the visitor, ready with information and interesting stores about the early owners and their colorful history.

Proclaiming the "news of the day" and announcing special attractions of the Fete will be an old-fashioned Nantucket Town Crier, impersonated by J. A. Manley, an island real estate broker. Emulating the town's beloved "Billy" Clark, the last of the town criers, Mr. Manley will add another touch of authenticity to the scene.

Special tableaux will be shown, both in the morning and in the afternoon, under the aegis of Charles Stackpole, island businessman. One of these will depict the volunteers of the now non-existant Humane Society, making hasty preparations to go to the rescue of the crew of some vessel wrecked on the island's treacherous outlying shoals. Members of the local Coast Guard contingent will participate in this tableau with one of their crash boats.

The second tableau—a more joyous one—will portray the return of a whaling captain and his crew after a voyage of several years. This will be copied after the tableau made famous by the late playwright, Austin Strong, in the Main Street Fete in 1925.

In Wallace Hall, at the east end of Main Street, there will be an exhibition of antiques, to be followed by an outdoor auction with Henry B. Coleman, former president of the Hospital Corporation and an insurance and real estate agent, as the auctioneer. An exhibition of marine paintings, loaned for the occasion, will be shown in this old mansion under the supervision of Robert E. Deeley. These will include many excellent oils of Nantucket vessels and waterfront scenes of the past century.

Cent School

In the garden of the Carlisle house across the street from Wallace Hall will be held a Nantucket "cent school," a school maintained privately before the founding of the public schools. For their education the boys and girls paid 1 cent a day to the owner-teacher of the school.

An old-time quilting party will be held in the yard of the Charles G. Coffin House, built in 1833 and now the home of Mrs. H. G. Warland. Numerous of the younger Nantucket girls have been learning the fine art of "quilting" during the Winter months in preparation for this part of the fete.

For the very young there will be a merry-go-round and other entertainment geared to hold their attention while their elders turn back the clock a 100 years on Main Street. The attractions for the children will be held on the grounds adjoining St. Paul's Church on Fair Street.

An exhibition of Nantucket handcraft will be held in the home of Mrs. John Ditmars, granddaughter of Benjamin F. Coffin who built, in 1834, the stately white house at the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets.

These are only a few of the many attractions which will be found along Main Street on Tuesday. The committees, which include more than 300 members in all, have been working diligently under the direction of Mrs. J. Allen Backus, the general chairman of the fete.

Working closely with her for months have been the representatives of the four sponsoring organizations: Lewis Jelleme for the Nantucket Atheneum, George Jones for the Historical Association, Mrs. George Folger for the Woman's Auxiliary, and Mrs. Ernest H. Menges for the Hospital Thrift Shop.

Mrs. Menges is also the chairman of the open houses committee. Mrs. Robert D. Congdon and Mrs. Margaret Fawcett Wilson have been supervising the preparation of the old-fashioned costumes and Miss Grace Brown Gardner has been acting as the historical consultant for all phases of the Fete's varied program.

An illustrated 64-page program has been prepared for the Fete. In it will be found an index to the activities, interesting and informative articles written by Everett U. Crosby, Dr. William E. Gardner and Edouard A. Stackpole, as well as stories about the four sponsoring organizations and their aims and purposes. A 1959 Volkswagen has been obtained as a door prize which will be awarded to the holder of the lucky program.

The last two of the "open houses" are the Herman Riddell house, of early 19th Century vintage, and the Varney house two doors down. In the latter will be found the Nantucket Atheneum Library's "bookstall," presided over by the present librarian, Mrs. Irene J. Smith.

While the Nantucket Atheneum is outside the bounds of the Main Street Fete by several blocks, its influence may be felt by all visitors to the Fete who pass the Pacific National Bank and pause to glance up at its roof on their way up the street. Here Maria Mitchell, the first librarian at the Nantucket Atheneum, spent her evenings "sweeping the sky" with



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

NANTUCKET PARTICIPANTS in renewal of the island's old-time traditional Main Street Fete this week were Victor Brown, Linwood Proctor and Mrs. Robert D. Congdon, who donned costumes and adopted a mode of transportation in keeping with the general salute to Nantucket's colorful past. Event was one of the highlights of the island's 300th anniversary celebration.



Nantucket To Show Homes



The fine old house at 91 Main St., Nantucket, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Kilvert of Providence will be among several houses on the island opened to view Tuesday.

The occasion is the Main Street Fete to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the settling of Nantucket by white men.

The fete will also include garden and antique booths, a quilting party, and scenes reminiscent of whaling days with people taking part authentically costumed. There will be exhibitions of Nantucket industries.

Houses designated as "open" may be entered by paying $1 each. All are included on a ticket which will cost $4.

Benefitting by the fete will be the Nantucket Atheneum, the Hospital Thrift Shop, the Nantucket Historical Association and the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Church.

—Photos by Dick Williams

Aug. 13, 1959.

Main Street Fete Huge Success; Fair Weather Brings Out Crowds

Representative Robert Mooney cut the ribbbon opening Main Street to the public, and Kenneth Pease, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, gave a welcoming address to officially begin the 1959 Main Street Fete on Tuesday, August 11. Mr. Pease had a special word for our summer visitors: "Please do not feel that you will never be an Nantucketer if you were not born here. We welcome all those who love our historic island to become a part of our little community."

The sun, a stranger to these parts lately, smiled down on hundreds of costumed Nantucketers and visitors, and, as the day progressed, painted in golden tones scenes from an older gracious century.

Seven of Main Street's most beautiful old homes held open house with charming hosts and hostesses in lovely costumes to tell a bit of history in each room. These houses represent several periods and styles of architecture from the Kilvert House, an early leanto type supposedly built in Sherburne in the 1690's and "Seven Fires," composed of a 1746 house and an ancient Sherburne dwelling,

Santa Claus door nobs were only a few of the delightful articles that could be purchased. Chairman of the committee was Mrs. Richard Lewis.

Busily winding wool on a wooden winder similar to those used in sheep shearing days were Mary Parmalee and Yvette Clarke, very appropriately attired in old fashioned dresses. Adding to the quaintness of the scene was a baby doll in a handsome christening dress.

"Instruction in Cribbage" was the theme of a tableau on the porch of 85 Main Street where a game old Nantucket gentleman was busily engaged teaching another fundamentals of cribbage for the benefit of spectators and camera enthusiasts.

Books of every size and description were the featured attraction at the Atheneum Book Stall under the supervision of Mrs. Irene J. Smith, local librarian. Among the volumes donated by townspeople were autographed copies of Dr. Will Gardner's books. Also obtainable were the Tony Sarg Main Street Fete posters, birthday cards, maps of the town, and a number of pamphlets on Nantucket history.

In front of the Marshall house at 89 Main Street were four persons representing a typical Nantucket family group of the whaling days.

Seated in the Evans' entryway, East Brick, were mother, son, and daughter awaiting the return of their whaling captain husband and father.

Three generations of the Starbuck family, direct descendants, was the idea behind the group in front of the Freeman house, Middle Brick.

Four lively, costumed children provided an entertaining as well as picturesque scene at 105 Main Street, the Kilvert residence.

Fete Glimpses



A Tableau depicting an afternoon tea in the whaling days.



Costumed children at the Cent School

A wealth of Nantucket talent was featured at the handcraft booth in the yard of the Ditmars residence at 98 Main. Of special interest were demonstrations by Miss Lizbeth Schaeffler, Mr. Irving Burnside, and Mrs. Hermon Johnson who gave visitors an idea of the work involved in making ceramics, lightship baskets, and hooked rugs respectively.

Tableaux on the porches of the Halsey home at 92 Main and the Stark residence at 90 Main centered around several Nantucket groups in old fashioned dress.

Homemade jellies by Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brockway were available at their Main Street stand.

Scanning the horizon for a glimpse of a returning ship was a retired sea captain on the porch of the Matteson residence at 86 Main.

At 84, in the Gifford back yard, was a series of booths featuring a wonderful gift assortment with a particularly attractive selection of aprons and takers.

A quilting bee was represented in the ward at 78 Main Street.

Playing gaily at garden games in the Cassaday yard across the street at 102 Main were a mother and her six small daughters.

Afternoon tea provided the setting on the lawn of the Boyd house at 100 Main Street and on the Chamblis porch at 94 Main where groups of Nantucket ladies gathered to exchange bits of local news and sow off their old fashioned costumes.



Main Street Fete



Representative Robert F. Mooney and Chairman of Selectmen Kenneth N. Pease cut the ribbon to open the Main Street Fete.



The Captain and his men home from the sea.



Mrs. Florence Deeley and her children, Deborah and Drew, visit with Representative and Mrs. Robert Mooney.



Ladies enjoying tea at one of Nantucket's Charming Main Street homes.

Fete Glimpse







Aug. 14, 1959



At the entrance of 111 Main Street, the Summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence L. Sibley, is Mrs. Sibley in her grandmother's dress. The Sibley home is one of those to be opened to the public on Main Street Fete Tuesday. Second from left, Mrs. John Gaspie, in her old-fashioned costume, is shown seated in front of the stage



in the Great Hall in the Nantucket Atheneum. From this stage, a century ago, authors and speakers such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and John James Audubon spoke to Nantucket audiences who filled the hall to enjoy lectures and other cultural presentations. In third picture from left is shown a small part of Mrs. C. L. Sibley's

Aug. 14, 1959



valuable collection of Bellflower pattern glass. The fine rib Bellflower pattern was made here in America in the mid-19th Century when the process of making pressed glassware was just beginning. Mrs. Sibley's collection is one of the most complete in this country. In photo at right, standing in front of one of

Aug. 14, 1959 N.B.

Crowd Of 3500 Throng Main Street Fete; Colorful Costumes And Tableaux Of Whaling Period Mark Historical Event

The Fete was the culmination of the cooperation and work of nearly 300 Islanders and Summer residents under the general chairmanship of Mrs. J. Allen Backus as a money raising benefit for the Historical Association, the Hospital Thrift Shop, the Atheneum and the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. While results will not be complete for several weeks, Fete chairmen and participants were agreed that it was a most successful day.

Robert F. Mooney opened the Fete at 10 am by snipping the ribbon across Main Street at the Pacific National Bank as Town Crier J. Alden Manley rang his bell beckoning the crowds to "see Nantucket in its glory in the days of the 1840's . . . 50 whaling ships in the harbor . . . population 10,000."

The ribbon cutting was delayed a moment when it was discovered the necessary scissors had been forgotten, but Philip Murray carried a pair from his Toggery Shop to save the day. Page 6)

Kenneth N. Pease, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, welcomed the crowds with the warming words that one didn't have to be born on Nantucket to be a Nantucketer.

As Mr. Pease handed Mrs. Mooney into a horse-drawn surrey to join Mr. Mooney and climbed on the front seat beside driver Victor Brown, the leisurely crowd followed the carriage up Main Street.

All day long cars were barred from Upper Main and only horse drawn carriages and a few bicycles bumped over the cobblestones. Roger Young unearthed an antique wheel from his collection and pedaled up and down Main Street several times during the day on a Starr bicycle, vintage 1870.

It was a day for costumes. Nantucketers have been accustomed during the birthday Summer to costumed women and their daughters, but on Main Street Fete day they saw many men and boys wearing the handsome garments of a century ago. Not only were there Quaker, period and sailor costumes from Nantucket's booming whaling era, but a foreign flavor was added by two stately Chinese mandarins and a Saudi-Arabian prince, reminding the Islanders that it was Nantucket whalers who pioneered the nation's foreign trade.

David Stanley and Frank Marrero of the Straight Wharf Playhouse were the aloof far eastern visitors while Alfred Lilienthal, in a khafia and a royal Arabian robe, the gift of King Saud of Saudi-Arabia, was the mysterious Arab mingling with the New England whalers.

Attracting attention wherever they went were colorfully costumed Mrs. Victoria Austin carrying a swaddling infant and Mrs. Sadie Pride pushing a 150-year-old-baby carriage, acting as nurses to the wealthy white mansion owners.

On the St. Paul's Parish house grounds the children rode a merry carousel, ate spun candy and played games of skill ringing such Nantucket symbols as a whale, a lighthouse, a windmill and the 300th birthday cake. They also watched kindergarten teacher Mrs. Charles W. Adshead return to an earlier system of teaching the 3 R's in a Cent School on the grounds of the Carlisle house. Ten little girls and one even tinier little boy worked on their old fashioned slates after Mrs. John J. Gardner 2d had given them pennies to pay for their education.

The last three generations of Starbucks were a picture of elegance as they sat before the Middle Brick, the only one of the three Joseph Starbuck built mansions to have stayed in the family. In the tableau were Joseph Starbuck Freeman, the sixth generation to live in the home that is his mother's, Mrs. Crowell Freeman, the second member of the tableau. The third member was Mrs. Freeman's uncle, George Mackay of Brookline.

Next to them on the steps of the East Brick Mrs. Robert Leske as the wife of whaling captain Nathaniel Starbuck of the ship Endeavour, waited with her two children, Nancy Leske and Jonathan Maury, for the return of her husband from a long sea voyage. The bell of the Town Crier heralded the arrival of David Marshall as Captain Starbuck in Brown's surrey, to which the whaling party had transferred after traveling lower Main Street in a surf boat.

Riding with the captain were the Endeavour's mate, Charles Sayle, and the cabin boy, Lawrence Caldwell, and following behind with harpoons slung over their shoulder were the ship's crew in striped sailor shirts, Paul Morris, Ralph Marble, Robert McGrath, Arthur Johnson, Robert Caldwell and Charles Stackpole. Captain Starbuck arrived in both the morning and afternoon to give his wife a fond greeting and wrap his children in his arms.

Photographers, amateur and professional, stills and movies, had an ideal day as they shot endless fottage in the soft August sunlight of elegant ladies pouring tea and good gray Quaker families posing in front of the handsome Main Street mansions.

Mrs. Rudolph Stanley-Brown at the Boyd home at 100 Main served afternoon tea in the morning to Mrs. Robert Francis, Mrs. William Perkins, the Misses Nancy and Hiya Carter, and little Patty Killen, Deborah Killen and Elizabeth Murray, while at 94 Main, the Chambliss home, Mrs. J. R. Jelleme, Mrs. Huntington Block, Mrs. F. P. Nash, Miss Sharon Snow and Miss Gerry Anne Bachman sipped tea on the steps of one of the historic Hadwen houses.

Two doors down at the Stark home at 90 Main Street Susan Tarlov, Peter McCallmont and Merry Bragonier represented the more subdued teenagrs of a century ago though Peter proved boys will be boys in all generations by munching doughnuts.

At the Halsey house at 92 Main Street Mrs. William Walters and Miss Danilie Howe sat regally on the steps while a handsome young colored footman, Glenn Santos, waited for their carriage to arrive.

Before the Marshall house at 89 Main, the Silvanus Macy homestead, a striking Quaker family scene was created by Howard Barber who changed from his Summer's town crier costume to the broad-brimmed hat and black cloth suit of a 19th century Friend, Mrs. Alfred F. Shurrocks, Mrs. Randolph G. Sharp, and two little Quaker maidens, Kerry and Lynne Proctor.

Further down the street on the lawn of the Menges home at 81 Main, two Quaker housewives busily wound wool and rocked a baby in a wooden crib waiting for their whaling husbands to return.

Sweeping the horizons with his spy glass and occasionally peering over at his wife in the Quaker tableau diagonally across the street was bearded Robert W. Clark on the high porch of 86 Main, the Matteson home, watching for his ship to sail into the harbor.

On the steps of 85 Main Street, the favorite Nantucket game of cribbage was being played with absorption by Dr. Marcius H. Merchant and Reginald Bragniere. In the afternoon Mr. Mackay on the steps of the Middle Brick turned from the Starbuck tableau to a game of cribbage and a game with J. G. Halsey.

Maria Mitchell in the person of Mrs. Edward R. Macomber played a lonely role on the roof walk of the Leeds Mitchell house at 77 Main Street, scanning the heavens with a telescope.

The majority of the costumes were from the collection of Mrs. Margaret Fawcett Wilson, co-chairman of costumes and tableaux with Mrs. Robert Congdon. Others were loaned by Mrs. H. A. L. Sand.

Some of the tableaux were repeated during the afternoon when new faces appeared in the scenes, while others made way for the tour of seven historic and elegantly furnished homes. Visitors streamed through the Sibley home at 111 Main, the Huneker house at 109, the Kilvert home at 105, the Harris house at 99, the Riddell home at 91, the Varney house at 87, and the Carlisle home at 75 Main, admiring the restrained luxury created by whaling wealth.

Modern Nantucket industry was represented by four displays. John Meilbye's scallop boat with its salty dredges to sweep the ocean bottom showed commercial fishing, while George DuBock brought his beach buggy decorated with fishing clothing, rods and reels, and models of bluefish and bass, representing sport fishing. The Information Bureau distributel pamphlets describing historic Main Street and the newly formed Nantucket Cranberries Inc. dispensed free cranberry juice.

Luncheon was served at One Pleasant Street where Miss Mattie Empson cooked old fashioned cranberry pudding and a sea food Newburg as special Nantucket dishes. Fete goers also visited the Coffin School where Robert Backus' crew ladled out quahaug chowder, and the snack bar on the Parish house grounds.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church merged their annual Summer bazaar with the Fete by organizing many of the booths but are sharing the proceeds equally with the other three benefiting organizations. Members of all the churches helped the Auxiliary by making and baking for the booths.

At the various tables in the yards of the Main Street houses shoppers bought Nantucket jams and jellies, "white elephants", home made candies and baked goods, Christmas and year round gifts. One of the biggest sale items was a Nantucket apron, 40 of which were made during the Winter by Auxiliary members and all sold long before the day was out.

On the grounds of the Wallace House a miscellany of items from attics and cupboards were on sale, while in the gardens the Garden Club sold fresh vegetables and cut flowers including such rarities as heather and sea lavender.

Nantucket artists were well represented in a large sidewalk art show along Pine Street where Fete goers bought water colors and oils of Island scenes, while the Atheneum sold Nantucket books and other second hand volumes at their display.

More Island scenes were the colored slides shown by Miss Hannah Monoghan twice during the day at the Parish House.

For the more vigorous Fete goers Charles Stackpole called the square dances on Winter Street. Spectators watched a dozen people in three sets at a time going through reels and country dances for nearly two hours.

over



Top Prize: Purchasing the first of 3100 tickets sold on the Main Street Fete's number one prize, a blue Volkswagen sedan, is Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Kenneth N. Pease, and making the sale is one of the program committee's most active workers, Mrs. Carret Woodward. Behind them are the program committee chairmen, Richard V. Lewis, and J. Alden Manley who played the role of the Town Crier Tuesday.

The winner of the car was Miss Dorothy M. Crist, a seventh grade reading teacher in an Altoona, Pa. junior high school, who is working on Nantucket this Summer at the Cliffside Beach Club.

The car, one of 12 Fete prizes, was made possible by Milestone Motors who gave up their profits to sell the car at cost to the Main Street Fete committee.

Fete Glimpse











Main Street Fete



Charles Stackpole calls the figures for a square dance as Judy Brockway, Kenneth Blackshaw, Barbara Holdgate, and John Morgan practice for the Fete.



Sewing for the Gift Table. Mrs. W. Ripley Nelson models an apron for Miss Rita Robinson, Mrs. George Jones, and Mrs. Harold Page.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

The Main Street Fete, eagerly awaited by all Nantucketers, is over. The weather cooperated with the hundreds of people who have been working for months to make the affair the outstanding success which everyone will surely agree it was. From morning to night youngsters from toddlers on up to their grandmothers and great-grandmothers had a perfectly wonderful time at the Fete.

There are lots of people who have worked long and hard for the Fete. But there is one person to whom a major portion of the credit should be given. That person is Mrs. J. Allen Backus.

Over a year ago, when the question first arose as to whether it might be a good idea to revive the Fete as part of the 300th Birthday Anniversary Celebration, Mrs. Backus was named as the one person who could assume the chairmanship of the Fete efficiently and capably. That she agreed to take on the job was typical of her willingness to help whenever and wherever she can, whether it be a fair, the Hospital Drive, the Red Cross Blood Bank, or some other charitable undertaking.

Mrs. Backus has worked throughout the winter months planning the Fete, organizing committees and subcommittees, solving the many problems which have popped up unexpectedly, smoothing out differences of opinion, arranging necessary meetings, and giving of herself untiringly and unselfishly in order that, when Fete day finally arrived, everything might go off smoothly and on time.

True, there have been many assistants on many committtees, all of whom deserve a great deal of credit for their hard work, but Harriet Backus was "the power behind the throne." Our most hearty thanks to her for a job well done.

Merle Turner Orléans
For the Committee

Aug. 14, 1959



Mrs. George Folger teaches Susie Holdgate and Margo Howes the lost art of quilting.

Nantucket's Famous
MAIN STREET FETE

LOOK INTO THE PAST
on
AUGUST 11, 1959

Come Early! ***Hear the Town Crier!*** ***Stay Late!!!***

10:00	Ribbon will be cut by Robert Mooney at the Pacific National Bank, opening Main Street for the Fete. Welcome by Kenneth Pease.
10:00	Shearing Cart starts up Main Street.
10:30	Dame's Cent School opens.
11:00	Returning Whalemen.
12:00	Coffin School, Winter Street: Have a bowl of Chowder, Enjoy the music of Thom Hart's Band, or Lunch at 1 Pleasant Street.
1:30	Returning Whalemen.
2:00	OPEN HOUSES: Exhibition, Wallace Hall.
All Day Events:	TABLEAUX; Color Slides of Nantucket, St. Paul's Parish House, Fair St.; Art Display and Sale, Pine St.; Nantucket Industries, Trader's Lane; Merry-go-round and Games for Children, Parish House grounds.
2:30	Returning Whalemen.
3:00	Square Dancing, Winter St.; Orchestra; Booths, Side Streets: Art, Handcrafts, Christmas Gifts, Books, Flowers, Food, White Elephants, Antiques — all on sale.
3:30	Shearing Cart.

Please, EVERYONE wear your old fashioned costume

ADMISSION — 50 cents

If the Weather is doubtful, listen to WOCB announcements and the NO SCHOOL signal.

Programs are $1.00 — You may gain a Volkswagen

Thanks for Appreciation

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

In last week's paper you printed a letter from Mrs. R. A. Orléans, thanking me, in behalf of the Committee, for my part in the "Main Street Fete." It was a wonderful and much-appreciated letter, but I find myself unable to accept it all without question.

For, as I read it, I thought of many things; of the great help and advice I received from the Honorary Chairman, the co-chairman, and the chairmen of the various committees; of the work done by the secretary and treasurer; of the many suggestions that solved problems, large and small; of the food, flowers, candy, white elephants, antiques, paintings, prints, and gifts, which were solicited, collected, made and sold; of the Christmas Tree with its many handmade ornaments; of the tables, chairs, and booths, gathered together, set up, then dismantled and returned; of the hours spent mending the beautiful old dresses; in designing and making the authentic-looking new; of the planning and carrying out of the pageantry; of the endless work done by the owners of the seven Main Street houses, which were opened to the public, making their lovely homes more attractive than ever for the hundreds of people visiting them; of the porches and yards which were scrubbed and raked, then used to portray scenes of other days; of the exhibitions of old scrimshaw, primitive paintings and prints; of the Nantucket Industries; of the work done on the program, compiling and selling; of the snack bar, the chowder bowl, and the generosity of the Trustees of the Coffin School; of the "Town Crier" in his colorful costume; of the children riding the merry-go-round in their old fashioned dresses, made in many instances, by interested mothers and grandmothers; of the "Returning Whalemen," the music and the square dancing; of the books, prints, and Tony sarg posters; of the contributors who helped to defray expenses; of those who helped guard the treasures in Wallace Hall; of the jellies and jams made in Nantucket kitchens; of the cooperation of the newspapers in giving a great deal of coverage; of the "Dames" and children of the Cent School, and of many other things that work together to make a community project a happy as well as successful event.

The entire town cooperated, including the Board of Selectmen, our Representative to the General Court, the Police, Fire and Street Departments, together with the Steering Committee of the 300 year celebration. Even the weatherman did his best.

There is one person whose name I must mention, and that is Miss Grace Brown Gardner. It is because of her carefully preserved records of other fetes that we have had a blue print to follow, and I would also like to pay tribute to the late Austin Strong, for it was in his fertile brain that the theme of "Main Street" with its glimpse in the past was born.

Thinking of all this makes me realize how relatively small was my contribution. My thanks to everyone.

Sincerely,
Harriet Backus

Nantucket

Nantucket handcrafters had their booths on the grounds of the Ditmars House at 98 Main where prints and weather vanes, bayberry candles and dolls, ceramics and jewelry, intrigued booth browsers. Participants were Nantucket Weavers, Helen Gardner, John Rodriguez, Dick Williams, Stone Alley, Captain Joseph King, Old Spouter Pottery, Elma Garmon, William Chamberlain, Irving Burnside, Doris Burgess, Paul Morris, Frances Page, Gerda Friedberg, the Seven Seas, Edith Osterberg, Macefield, Handcrafters, Ruth Sutton and Jo Torrey. The youngest craftsmen were 12-year-old Peter Sylvia and Dana Page who showed their handpainted shells at opposite tables.

Mr. Burnside set up shop in the Handcrafts exhibit in place of Jose Reyes who was ill, and showed the curious how Nantucket lightship baskets were created.

The old shearing cart, due to make an appearance twice during the day, was broken down and never arrived, and because of the pressure of so many other activities, the Main Street auction was postponed until August 28.

Working under the chairmanship of Mrs. Backus on the Fete were the honorary chairman, Mrs. James H. Burtenshaw, co-chairmen Mrs. Julian Harris and Mrs. Leeds Mitchell, historical consultant Grace Brown Gardner, secretary Alma Robbins, treasurer Robert Congdon and publicity, Mrs. R. A. Orleans.

Tell Berna and Howard Jelleme co-chairmaned the men's committee while Richard Lewis had charge of program and ticket sales. Mrs. Walter O'Grady directed the music and Charles Stackpole the square dancing. John Sharp and Paul Crosthwaite shared chairmanship of the art show, while the antiques and white elephant booths were in charge of Mrs. Richard Porter and Mrs. Franklin Webster. Librarian Irene Smith had command of the Atheneum book stall, Mrs. Harold Page, the handcrafts, and Robert Sziklas, Nantucket industries.

The flowers and garden displays were in charge of Mrs. Harry Turner and Mrs. Charles Sziklas, Mrs. Jack Grout and Mrs. Gaius Halsey co-chairmanned gifts, and Mrs. Richard Lewis, Christmas gifts. Jams and jellies were in charge of Mrs. George Folger, aprons and takers, Mrs. Ripley Nelson, and candies, Mrs. Charles Stackpole. Mrs. James Lamb and Mrs. Kent Matteson had responsibility for children's activities, Mrs. John J. Gardner 2d the Cent School, Mrs. Robert Congdon, Charles Stackpole and Margaret Fawcett Wilson, the costumes and tableaux.

The Snack bar was in charge of Mrs. Irene Chase, the chowder bar, Robert Backus, the food bar, Mrs. Seddon Legg and Miss Ellen Ramsdell, and the flower and cigarette girls, Mrs. Gleed Thompson.

Working with each of these chairmen were several hundred Nantucketers and Summer residents on the first Main Street Fete to be held since 1935.

Aug. 1959

Main Street Fete Returns Show a Net of $10,000

The Nantucket Main Street Fete, August 11, netted a total of $10,000, which will be divided among the four sponsoring organizations; the Nantucket Atheneum, Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket Hospital Thrift Shop, and the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Church.

The net total of $10,000 was announced by the general chairman, Mrs. J. Allen Backus, at a meeting of the committee and residents of Main Street on Wednesday evening at the Atheneum. Mrs. Backus made a brief report of the activities and said she wished to make clear to everyone that the Woman's Auxiliary had been asked by the 300th Anniversary Steering Committee to assume the responsibility for the fete this year and, if there were any future fetes, the organization wished to remain apart. Members of the group would, however, cooperate in making plans for future fetes and would work on committees.

The secretary, Miss Alma P. Robbins, presented a condensed report for the treasurer, Mr. Robert D. Congdon, who is off island. Mr. Congdon's report showed the total net income of the fete to be $10,000 and was broken down as follows:

Auction, $651.74; Aprons and gifts, $699.99; Art, $211.50; Books, $246.08; Candy, $166.63; Cigarettes, $11.53; Children's activities, $213.45 Chowder bowl, $149.58; Christmas table, $416.62; Flowers, $479.73; Food, $342.82; Handcrafts, $398.82; Jelly, $146.47; Industries, $13; Snacks, $118.96; White elephants, $671.93; Fortunes, $15; Luncheon, $125; Gate receipts (net), $1,313.20; Open houses, $1,450.65; Donations and gifts, $1,461.79; Programs, $676, and miscellaneous, $19.50.

The complete report of the treasurer, including the gross receipts and expenses, is on file at the office of Mr. Congdon.

A discussion was held with regard to plans for continuing the fete in future years and Mr. Richard Lewis made a motion the chair appoint a chairman of a committee to go into the matter thoroughly and report back to the group at another meeting. This chairman would choose his own committee and make such investigation of the prospects of having another fete as they deemed wise and necessary. Following some discussion, Mr. Lewis' motion was voted favorably.

It was suggested any future fetes be sponsored by the Hospital Thrift Shop and the Historical Association. Mrs. Backus asked for a show of hands on the question of how often those present felt a fete should be held and the majority felt a successful fete could be held every second year.

Mr. George Jones, president of the Steering Committee, complimented members of the fete committee for having the most successful event of the 300th Birthday Celebration and said it was the one activity which caused his committee the least trouble and the only one about which there were no complaints.

Following a brief discussion about having a simpler program for future fetes and the pros and cons of "door prizes," the meeting closed.

Sept. 26 1959

Crowd Of 3500 Throng Main Street Fete; Colorful Costumes And Tableaux Of Whaling Period Mark Historical Event

Rep. Mooney Opens Event; Chairman Gives Welcome

Nantucket turned back a page in history to the nineteenth century on historic cobblestoned Main Street Tuesday in a revival of the Main Street Fete. All through the day the crowds, estimated at 3500, flowed up and down the seaport town of the whaling captains, following the announcements of the Town Crier, photographing the tableaux, touring seven of the historic Main Street mansions, and visiting the handcraft and gift booths.

The Fete was the culmination of the cooperation and work of nearly 300 Islanders and Summer residents under the general chairmanship of Mrs. J. Allen Backus as a money raising benefit for the Historical Association, the Hospital Thrift Shop, the Atheneum and the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. While results will not be complete for several weeks, Fete chairmen and participants were agreed that it was a most successful day.

Robert F. Mooney opened the Fete at 10 am by snipping the ribbon across Main Street at the Pacific National Bank as Town Crier J. Alden Manley rang his bell beckoning the crowds to "see Nantucket in its glory in the days of the 1840's . . . 50 whaling ships in the harbor . . . population 10,000."

The ribbon cutting was delayed a moment when it was discovered the necessary scissors had been forgotten, but Philip Murray carried a pair from his Toggery Shop to save the day.

Kenneth N. Pease, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, welcomed the crowds with the warming words that one didn't have to be born on Nantucket to be a Nantucketer.

As Mr. Pease handed Mrs. Mooney into a horse-drawn surrey to join Mr. Mooney and climbed on the front seat beside driver Victor Brown, the leisurely crowd followed the carriage up Main Street.

All day long cars were barred from Upper Main and only horse drawn carriages and a few bicycles bumped over the cobblestones. Roger Young unearthed an antique wheel from his collection and pedaled up and down Main Street several times during the day on a Starr bicycle, vintage 1870.

It was a day for costumes. Nantucketers have been accustomed during the birthday Summer to costumed women and their daughters, but on Main Street Fete day they saw many men and boys wearing the handsome garments of a century ago. Not only were there Quaker, period and sailor costumes from Nantucket's booming whaling era, but a foreign flavor was added by two stately Chinese mandarins and a Saudi-Arabian prince, reminding the Islanders that it was Nantucket whalers who pioneered the nation's foreign trade.

David Stanley and Frank Marrero of the Straight Wharf Playhouse were the aloof far eastern visitors while Alfred Lilienthal, in a khafia and a royal Arabian robe, the gift of King Saud of Saudi-Arabia, was the mysterious Arab mingling with the New England whalers.

Attracting attention wherever they went were colorfully costumed Mrs. Victoria Austin carrying a swaddling infant and Mrs. Sadie Pride pushing a 150-year-old-baby carriage, acting as nurses to the wealthy white mansion owners.

On the St. Paul's Parish house grounds the children rode a merry carousel, ate spun candy and played games of skill ringing such Nantucket symbols as a whale, a lighthouse, a windmill and the 300th birthday cake. They also watched kindergarten teacher Mrs. Charles W. Adshead return to an earlier system of teaching the 3 R's in a Cent School on the grounds of the Carlisle house. Ten little girls and one even tinier little boy worked on their old fashioned slates after Mrs. John J. Gardner 2d had given them pennies to pay for their education.

The last three generations of Starbucks were a picture of elegance as they sat before the Middle Brick, the only one of the three Joseph Starbuck built mansions to have stayed in the family. In the tableau were Joseph Starbuck Freeman, the sixth generation to live in the home that is his mother's, Mrs. Crowell Freeman, the second member of the tableau. The third member was Mrs. Freeman's uncle, George Mackay of Brookline.

Next to them on the steps of the East Brick Mrs. Robert Leske as the wife of whaling captain Nathaniel Starbuck of the ship Endeavour, waited with her two children, Nancy Leske and Jonathan Maury, for the return of her husband from a long sea voyage. The bell of the Town Crier heralded the arrival of David Marshall as Captain Starbuck in Brown's surrey, to which the whaling party had transferred after traveling lower Main Street in a surf boat.

Riding with the captain were the Endeavour's mate, Charles Sayle, and the cabin boy, Lawrence Caldwell, and following behind with harpoons slung over their shoulder were the ship's crew in striped sailor shirts, Paul Morris, Ralph Marble, Robert McGrath, Arthur Johnson, Robert Caldwell and Charles Stackpole. Captain Starbuck arrived in both the morning and afternoon to give his wife a fond greeting and wrap his children in his arms.

Photographers, amateur and professional, stills and movies, had an ideal day as they shot endless fottage in the soft August sunlight of elegant ladies pouring tea and good gray Quaker families posing in front of the handsome Main Street mansions.

Mrs. Rudolph Stanley-Brown at the Boyd home at 100 Main served afternoon tea in the morning to Mrs. Robert Francis, Mrs. William Perkins, the Misses Nancy and Hiya Carter, and little Patty Killen, Deborah Killen and Elizabeth Murray, while at 94 Main, the Chambliss home, Mrs. J. R. Jelleme, Mrs. Huntington Block, Mrs. F. P. Nash, Miss Sharon Snow and Miss Gerry Anne Bachman sipped tea on the steps of one of the historic Hadwen houses.

Two doors down at the Stark home at 90 Main Street Susan Tarlov, Peter McCallmont and Merry Bragonier represented the more subdued teenagrs of a century ago though Peter proved boys will be boys in all generations by munching doughnuts.

At the Halsey house at 92 Main Street Mrs. William Walters and Miss Danilie Howe sat regally on the steps while a handsome young colored footman, Glenn Santos, waited for their carriage to arrive.

Before the Marshall house at 89 Main, the Silvanus Macy homestead, a striking Quaker family scene was created by Howard Barber who changed from his Summer's town crier costume to the broad-brimmed hat and black cloth suit of a 19th century Friend, Mrs. Alfred F. Shurrocks, Mrs. Randolph G. Sharp, and two little Quaker maidens, Kerry and Lynne Proctor.

Further down the street on the lawn of the Menges home at 81 Main, two Quaker housewives busily wound wool and rocked a baby in a wooden crib waiting for their whaling husbands to return.

Sweeping the horizons with his spy glass and occasionally peering over at his wife in the Quaker tableau diagonally across the street was bearded Robert W. Clark on the high porch of 86 Main, the Matteson home, watching for his ship to sail into the harbor.

On the steps of 85 Main Street, the favorite Nantucket game of cribbage was being played with absorption by Dr. Marcius H. Merchant and Reginald Bragniere. In the afternoon Mr. Mackay on the steps of the Middle Brick turned from the Starbuck tableau to a game of cribbage and a game with J. G. Halsey.

Maria Mitchell in the person of Mrs. Edward R. Macomber played a lonely role on the roof walk of the Leeds Mitchell house at 77 Main Street, scanning the heavens with a telescope.

The majority of the costumes were from the collection of Mrs. Margaret Fawcett Wilson, co-chairman of costumes and tableaux with Mrs. Robert Congdon. Others were loaned by Mrs. H. A. L. Sand.

Some of the tableaux were repeated during the afternoon when new faces appeared in the scenes, while others made way for the tour of seven historic and elegantly furnished homes. Visitors streamed through the Sibley home at 111 Main, the Huneker house at 109, the Kilvert home at 105, the Harris house at 99, the Riddell home at 91, the Varney house at 87, and the Carlisle home at 75 Main, admiring the restrained luxury created by whaling wealth.

Modern Nantucket industry was represented by four displays. John Meilbye's scallop boat with its salty dredges to sweep the ocean bottom showed commercial fishing, while George DuBock brought his beach buggy decorated with fishing clothing, rods and reels, and models of bluefish and bass, representing sport fishing. The Information Bureau distributel pamphlets describing historic Main Street and the newly formed Nantucket Cranberries Inc. dispensed free cranberry juice.

Luncheon was served at One Pleasant Street where Miss Mattie Empson cooked old fashioned cranberry pudding and a sea food Newburg as special Nantucket dishes. Fete goers also visited the Coffin School where Robert Backus' crew ladled out quahaug chowder, and the snack bar on the Parish house grounds.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary of St. Paul's Episcopal Church merged their annual Summer bazaar with the Fete by organizing many of the booths but are sharing the proceeds equally with the other three benefiting organizations. Members of all the churches helped the Auxiliary by making and baking for the booths.

At the various tables in the yards of the Main Street houses shoppers bought Nantucket jams and jellies, "white elephants", home made candies and baked goods, Christmas and year round gifts. One of the biggest sale items was a Nantucket apron, 40 of which were made during the Winter by Auxiliary members and all sold long before the day was out.

On the grounds of the Wallace House a miscellany of items from attics and cupboards were on sale, while in the gardens the Garden Club sold fresh vegetables and cut flowers including such rarities as heather and sea lavender.

Nantucket artists were well represented in a large sidewalk art show along Pine Street where Fete goers bought water colors and oils of Island scenes, while the Atheneum sold Nantucket books and other second hand volumes at their display.

More Island scenes were the colored slides shown by Miss Hannah Monoghan twice during the day at the Parish House.

For the more vigorous Fete goers Charles Stackpole called the square dances on Winter Street. Spectators watched a dozen people in three sets at a time going through reels and country dances for nearly two hours.

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Aug. 14, 1959



Top Prize: Purchasing the first of 3100 tickets sold on the Main Street Fete's number one prize, a blue Volkswagen sedan, is Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Kenneth N. Pease, and making the sale is one of the program committee's most active workers, Mrs. Carret Woodward. Behind them are the program committee chairmen, Richard V. Lewis, and J. Alden Manley who played the role of the Town Crier Tuesday.

The winner of the car was Miss Dorothy M. Crist, a seventh grade reading teacher in an Altoona, Pa. junior high school, who is working on Nantucket this Summer at the Cliffside Beach Club.

The car, one of 12 Fete prizes, was made possible by Milestone Motors who gave up their profits to sell the car at cost to the Main Street Fete committee.



Nantucket's famous "Three Bricks," are Mrs. Lester Bachman and her twin daughters, Marjorie and Ellen, and Mrs. William Perkins and her son Dana. The "Three Bricks" have played a major part in Nantucket's whaling history for they were built by one of the most succesful of the island's captains, Joseph Starbuck.

Aug. 9, 1959
N. B.

Dorothy Crist Wins Volkswagen In Main Street Fete Drawing

Winners of the 1959 Volkswagen and 11 other prizes were determined Wednesday afternoon at the 2:30 drawing on the steps of the Pacific National Bank. Miss Vicki Lillicrapp did the drawing from a wire basket containing approximately 3,200 tickets. Mr. Henry B. Coleman called off the winners' names.

The Volkswagen was won by Miss Dorothy Crist, a teacher from Pennsylvania, who is working at Cliffside Beach this summer.

Miss Crist teaches 7th grade reading at Altoona, Pa., and spends her summers here. She has worked for the Jetties beach in the past. Although this is her fifth consecutive summer here, she first visited the island 25 years ago. She is fond of travel, particularly by car.

When first told of her luck, Miss Crist says she went out and shouted the news to the whole beach. She is undecided as to what she will do with the car.

Winners of 10 other prizes consisting of packages of four Nantucket history books by eminent men and prints by Ruth Haviland Sutton were: Mrs. T. Newberry, Jessie Vosburg, Nancy Thornhill, Mrs. William Tindall, Mrs. Isabell Ridell, Arnold Duce, John C. Lagsdin, Mr. Kenyon, Rose Stanshigh, and Mrs. Eric Huneker.

Repicient of the $200 mystery prize, a sterling silver tray donated by Mrs. Austin Strong, was Thomas Fisher, Jr., of Wauwinet.

Chairman of the raffle program was Mr. Richard Lewis assisted by Mrs. Carret Woodward.

Aug. 14, 1959

COSTUMES

Work Begun on Period Costumes To be Worn During Anniversary

Up at the Old North Church last Tuesday several ladies took advantage of the opportunity to get their 1850 dresses started for our coming celebration. The time is getting short, for June 15 is the day we on the island are stepping years back in memory.

The pins and scissors were pushed through four new and pretty prints in one afternoon in the Ladies' Parlor. The laughter and fast-flying fingers helped get one dress nearly made. Some ladies have dresses that date back to the '50's which can be worn today, and after consulting with one another they have decided just what can be done to them so the old dresses may be worn this summer.

May 8, 1959

Authentic Old Time Dresses Shown in Store Window

Take a walk up Main Street until you come to Louis Coffin's Dry Goods Store. As soon as you pause to look in the windows you'll be taken back into the past. The china dolls and children's chairs are something not seen in most homes today. The dresses and bonnet are authentic and are all "real Nantucket."

All the dresses are from the Fred Fish House on Broad Street and the Obed Joy House on North Water Street. These lovely old dresses were found in the attic by Mrs. Wylie Collins when the two old houses were purchased.

The little china doll was a childhood gift to Mrs. Collins by Mrs. Walter Spencer when they lived on Summer Street. Mrs. Spencer's father was the lighthouse keeper on Nantucket when the present light was built on Brant Point. The child's cane chair was given to Dexter Collins by a friend a few years ago.

Satain's Fashion Book dates back to 1849 and is among Mrs. Collins' collection.

Mrs. Collins surely has given inspiration for the coming 300th Anniversary. Many beautiful prints, and findings, waiting to be made up into pretty summer dresses are displayed in the windows and blend in nicely with the dresses.

Time never has stood still except when we are able to catch a glimpse of the past expressed by these quaint dresses. A dress made today may, 100 years hence, please someone if you get busy and make one to wear this summer!

May 8, 1959



Mrs. Raymond Foulkrod was instrumental in arranging the above display in Buttner's window, which shows type of costumes worn about 1851, and which will be worn by salesladies at Buttner's this season.

May 8, 1959

Newly Made 1850 Fashions Displayed on Main Street

The "now-look" version of the lady-like dresses of 1850 are very prettily displayed in Buttner's window this week. These dresses will be worn to church, shopping, and public functions this summer in recognition of Nantucket's 300th anniversary and is a project of the ladies of the North Church.

Have you considered making one and then discarded the idea as a little to ambitious? When you pause in front of the store window just keep in mind that none of the Nantucket ladies who made those gowns are professional seamstresses. Also those dresses can be made with any material of suitable print and the cost range is entirely up to you.

The show case for the pretty gowns, with the old hand-hooked rugs and little baskets, was arranged by Mrs. Raymond Foulkrod and is a proper setting for the inspiration the ladies of North Church hope to instill in every Nantucket woman the desire to enter into the spirit of our 300th anniversary with pretty gowns and happy spirits.

Time is running short and before you realize it June 15 will be here and you don't want to be one of the few who lack the proper dress to wear to church or shopping or to the "Main Street Fete." Think how it would lend color and spirit to that one big day of our 300th celebration. Strolling down to the "sing" evenings with your dainty gown would be a thrill for you and our visitors this summer.

If you feel your fingers are not adept at creating a dress you'd like. there is a way for you to have one. The ladies of North Church will help any Tuesday, for a group of willing seamstresses will be at the church in the Ladies Parlor ready to help you, for a small fee, depending on just how much help you require.

They will have pins and needles, yardsticks and scissors, thread and sewing machines and, most important of all, the spirit of fun in doing something together for Nantucket will prevail. All you need is your material, a pattern, and you. Perhaps your daughter would like a dress, too.

Remember this is the only 300th Anniversary Nantucket can ever have —there will be another big anniversary in another 100 years but we can't wait for that one—so if the girls in Nantucket can lend a little more beauty to it, let's do just that. Come up to the church anytime Tuesday afternoon after two and get started on that gown. It doesn't take long after you have made the decision.

NANTUCKET

WELCOME TO NANTUCKET is given members of the boatline authority by Nantucket women dressed in authentic costumes of the whaling days. The welcome took place as the island celebrated its 300th anniversary. Left to right are Richard F. Tobin, Mrs. Robert Wiley, Paul W. Glennon, chairman of the authority, Mrs. Douglas Wiley, Felix F. Perrone and Robert S. Backus.



Beau-Catching Dresses of 1850 Displayed in Local Shop Window

Two pretty dresses are shown this week in a store window on Main Street. That in itself isn't unusual as there are several shops which always have lovely dresses in their windows. The difference in these gowns is that the cut and style is 1850.

One is a dainty pink and blue check trimmed with white eyelet and soft black velvet bows. The tiny waist is emphasized by a full, long skirt, just the beau-catching dress a girl should wear this summer. The young lady who made it and will wear it is Miss Marjorie Bartlett.

The other dress is more matronly, as it should be, for it was made by Miss Bartlett's mother, Mrs. Irving Bartlett. Not forgetting her own brunette coloring, Mrs. Bartlett chose a lovely red print trimmed with gold, which makes her seem the fairer. When she wears this gown, many a male heart will flutter when she goes down the walk to town or church.

Some of the town girls are going to miss half the fun and joy of this coming summer if you haven't a pretty "new" dress. When you make one of drip-dry cotton it will take only a minute of your time to whisk your dress in and out of the suds.

Imagine how great-grandma had to work to keep her's dainty and ironed. Now it's no work at all with the wonderful new materials which can be purchased from two dry goods stores right here in town.

If you get busy today, your summer gown can be in your wardrobe all ready for you by Monday so when June 15 dawns you will be able to step into the past with the rest of the ladies.

May 15, 1959



TWO NANTUCKET MOTHERS with their twin daughters dressed in appropriate costumes for the 300th birthday celebration are ready to greet new arrivals at the Island Service Company Wharf. Left to right, front row, are Susan and Sarah Lynch and Marjorie and Ellen Backman. Standing are Mrs. Catherine Lynch, left, and Mrs. Geradine Backman.

June 29, 1959



NANTUCKET WOMEN will be wearing these gowns of the old whaling days to lend atmosphere to the birthday anniversary.



Ready to welcome visitors to his home are Mr. Neas, in Colonial costume, and Jayne Caldwell, a direct descendant of Cyrus Hussey, who built the outstanding house.



Richard Neas, owner of the Hussey house on Pleasant Street, is shown in the living room with a guest, Mrs. Charles Jewett, during the D. A. R. "Open Houses" on Wednesday.

Jul 14 17, 1959



Presentation of Quarterboard from Marine Lumber Co. to "Pleasure Island" in Wakefield was made by James K. Glidden, Secretary of Nantucket Selectmen to Jay Veevers, representing Mr. William Hawkes. Left to right are: Jay Veevers, Catherine Congdon, Helen Congdon, Mr. Glidden, Sharon Snow, Jane Caldwell, Gerry Bachman and Helena Caldwell.



Aug. 21, 1959



SURREY RIDES AGAIN—Miss Suzy Holdgate, 16, of Cliff Road, Nantucket, sits pretty in her surrey. The high school lass started driving the buggy last year to add atmosphere to the 300th birthday celebration of the town. She decided to give rides this year, too, to earn money for college during Summer vacation.



Charming ladies in lovely costumes are seen on the streets these days. Mrs. Charles Stackpole and Mrs. W. Feldman stroll on Main Street.

June 28, 1960



Ladies enjoying tea at one of Nantucket's Charming Main Street home

CONCERTS

Fine Summer Concerts Offered On 300th Birthday Program

The Nantucket 300th Anniversary Committee announces two concerts, a matinee and an evening performance, by 40 members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and a Concert Series of five performances by various outstanding artists, to be held this summer in connection with the Nantucket Birthday Celebration.

For the first time in its history, a group of 40 musicians from Boston Symphony Orchestra will play a concert on an island in the United States. They have played in this country in cities from coast to coast, in Europe from Cork to Moscow, and in Iceland. The concerts on June 21 at the High School in Nantucket will be conducted by Richard Burgin, associate conductor of the orchestra, and a beautiful program has been arranged. Nancy Silsbee, of Nantucket, will play the Mozart C-minor Concerto at both afternoon and evening concerts. Tickets may be obtained at the Information Office in Nantucket.

The first of the Concert Series on July 6 will be a "Fiesta Flamenca," featuring Julio Prol, classical guitarist; Adela Valle and Sarita Amor dancers, accompanied by Samico Yohai, flamenco guitarist.

The second presentation, on July 27, is a Folk Music Concert by Odetta, a Negro folk singer. She made a highly successful debut winning unanimous acclaim of the critics, at Town Hall in New York City this spring.

The third offering of the Series, on August 3, will be a program by the Claremont Quartet, an ensemble of gifted young string players who have appeared throughout the country with great success.

On August 31, Leonard Rose, internationally known cellist, who has won extraordinary acclaim wherever he has appeared, will give a concert.

The final offering of the Series, on Labor Day, September 7, will be a joint presentation by Geoffrey Holder, a young man of many talents from Trinidad who will present a dance program accompanied by two men playing on steel drums; and a song recital by the distinguished young baritone, Rawn Spearman.

A subscription ticket, for the five concerts, may be purchased for $10, or tickets for individual concerts at $2.50 each. Tickets may be obtained now by contacting Miss Jane Wallach, 71 Orange Street, telephone 1569; or after June 15 they will be available at the 300th Birthday office located on Broad Street next to the Whaling Museum.

This Concert Series, and the Boston Symphony concerts, are opportunities which are a "must" for anyone planning to be on or near Nantucket this summer.

May 29, 1959

Nine-Member Village Band Plays for Nantucket Crowd

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, June 15 — Nine members of the Nantucket Community Orchestra presented an entertaining program from the porch of the Atheneum on lower Pearl Street. An enthusiastic audience warmly greeted every selection played by the Village Band as the nine termed themselves.

Roger Young announced the numbers and kept the crowd in a state of good humor.

The concert was an event of the 300th anniversary.

A feature of the event was advertising the Village Band concert through means of a town crier. Howard C. Barber of 12 Westminster Street, originator of the idea, dressed in a costume of the Pilgrim period, made a large sign telling of the concert, secured a hand bell and then tramped the main streets and the business district singing out in a loud voice, "Big concert tonight. Come and hear the Village Band perform. Be at the Atheneum at 8:30 tonight and hear the big concert."

Mr. Barber managed to be on Steamboat Wharf each time a steamer arrived and he made sure that all the arriving Summer visitors knew about the concert and that Nantucket was celebrating its 300th Birthday. S.B.D.

June 15, 1959



TOWN CRIER Howard C. Barber trooped the streets of Nantucket Friday announcing a concert by the Village Band, a group from the Nantucket Community Orchestra.

500 *Applaud Community Orchestra Concert*

The Nantucket Community Orchestra played its mid-Summer concert last night before an audience of nearly 500 appreciative people who warmly applauded director Estelle O'Grady and the year-and-a-half-old organization.

Mrs. O'Grady programmed the concert to please not only the divergent tastes of the audience, but also those of the 31 members of the orchestra, whose only recompense, according to intermission speaker Howard Barber, is their satisfaction in playing and the pleasure they give to their listeners.

Band music is the orchestra's strong suit, but the string sections did very well in the classical and semi-classical selections. The string trio of Milton Zlotin, violin, Miriam Haskell, violin and Maud Jackson, viola, starred in their playing of Villa from the Merry Widow. Concertmaster Zlotin, the versatile Dr. H. Brooks Walker on the autoharp and Frank Dinsmore playing a gong were equally good in the theme from Tea house of the August Moon.

Parker Gray Jr. sustained the difficult trumpet solo from Ferde Grofe's Father of Waters from the Mississippi Suite, and Walter O'Grady had as much fun as the audience sliding his trombone in a novelty number Lassus Trombone.

The orchestra finished the successful evening with an encore, The Thunderer March by Sousa.

This was the fifth concert the orchestra, organized by Mrs. O'Grady in the spring of 1958, has played, and the second this Summer. Earlier the brasses and percussions gave an outdoor band concert.

The Community Orchestra will play again September 10.

July 31, 1959

"Village Band" Concert Success In First Appearance

Among the first few birthday events to take place this month was the Community concert on Friday evening by the "Village Band." Some of the selections heard were: "Down in Old Nantucket," "Our Director March," "Peggy O'Neil," "The Lorelei," and, of course, "The Star Spangled Banner." Popular townsman, Roger Young, kept the program on a snappy, even keel as Master of Ceremonies. There was a fine turnout and everyshould have had a good time.

The "Village Band" is the brass section of Nantucket's Community Orchestra. Under the able organization



"Town Crier" Howard C. Barber, of Westminster Street, as he appeared last Friday morning advertising the concert of the "Village Band."

and leadership of Mrs. Estelle O'Grady, its effect was certainly terrific as was indicated by a particularly enthusiastic audience which applauded each number successively. Throughout the day, Mr. Howard Barber had been filling the role of Town Crier in calling the townsfolk out for the affair. The good turnout that night can be attributed not only to the popularity of our island orchestra, but also to the excellent job done by the impressively tall, Mr. Barber with his stentorian voice. It was hoped rental of seats would provide funds to enable band members to attend Sunday's symphony concert.

The band was in front of the newly painted white, Atheneum columns, and the lighting which enhanced the shadows of the performers against the building created a very pleasing effect. The musicians were dressed in dark red pants and white shirts. It was interesting to wonder if Maria Mitchell would not be very pleased with such cultural and pleasant activity at the library, where she was the first librarian at the age of 18. Perhaps this success will encourage the revival of band concerts, which were so popular many years ago.

July 17, 1959

Nantucket Community Orchestra Presents Mid-summer Concert

The mid-summer concert of the Nantucket Community Orchestra, with Estelle O'Grady conducting, will be presented at the High School Auditorium on Thursday, July 30. In addition to the regular members, six summer visitors have been rehearsing for weeks with the group, and will play this concert. Five of them play with other orchestras during the winter. Edward C. Roberts, cellist, of Hartford, Conn., plays with the Hartford String Orchestra. He began studying at 10, and has played ever since. His father was a former Governor of Connecticut. Mr. Roberts is a graduate of Yale, a partner in the Marendez Travel Agency, and has his own insurance business. His hobbies are amateur dramatics, designing stage sets, and painting portraits. He and his wife are members of the Mark Twain Masters, a little theater group in Hartford.

Maud M. Jackson, violist, plays in the Jacksonville Symphony. She studied at the New England Conservatory, and has concertized as soloist and in quartets in Boston, Providence, Daytona, Jacksonville, and in other cities. Her winter home is St. Augustine, Fla., where she teaches voice and stringed instruments.

Mary Till, wife of Derek Till, and daughter of orchestra member Tell Berna, is from Concord, Mass., where she plays viola in the local orchestra. She has three children, two boys and a girl, and her hobbies are playing quartets and reading. Mrs. Till was on the island when the Nantucket orchestra started, and she has seen a minor miracle performed by Estelle O'Grady in creating a harmonic whole from a very diversified group of musicians.

Elizabeth Lapp Purrington plays trombone in the orchestra. She began her studies at 13, played at Rochester, N. Y., in the Inter-High School Band, in the Eastman Symphonic Band, and in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve Band for two years. She is a graduate of Denver University where she was the only girl player in a band with 15 boys. She also played first trombone in the Denver Businessmen's Symphony. Her husband is a contracting engineer, and wherever he has a job she goes with their two daughters and son, and Elizabeth soon finds a place in an orchestra.

One of the youngest members of the orchestra is Jane Borthwick who lives in Worcester and attends Western State Teachers' College where she is studying to teach science. She played flute in her Junior High and High School orchestra, and is in Nantucket for the summer working at the Lamp Post restaurant.

Emanuel Elston who for many years was co-director with his wife of the Conservatory for Progressive Education in New York City, is playing violin for his second summer with the orchestra. He started his violin studies at the age of 10, and has played ever since, although his greatest musical interest is in the application of current developments in education and psychology to the field of music education. Mr. and Mrs. Elston both have Master's degrees from Columbia Teachers' College. His hobbies are political and social theory, travel, and photography.

For the convenience of the many who do not wish to hurry in arriving at the concert but who wish to be assured of a desirable seat, a reserved section has been arranged. Tickets may be obtained from any member of the orchestra and on Main Street for a few days before the concert.

July 17, 1959

Air Force Band Concert

Thirty-two members of the 567th Air Force Band treated Nantucketers to a very enjoyable program of music at Straight Wharf on Wednesday evening. Composed of National Guard personnel, the group, which is attached to the 102nd Tactical Fighter Wing based at Logan Air Force Base in Boston, is stationed for a two-week period at Otis AFB on its annual summer training tour.

Members of the group, with their conductor, M/Sgt. Michael Di Pasquale, have played this year at various points on the Cape such as Yarmouthport, Dennis, and Buzzards Bay. In England, they gave a performance at the NATO dinner where the late Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles, was present. Programs are also put on for the American Red Cross, hospital and a variety of patriotic services are extended by the group. Twenty-five per cent are professional musicians.

The repetoire of the band is not limited to military pieces. Well over 500 islanders heard selections from such long-time favorites as "My Fair Lady", "Pajama Game", and "Carousel". Several trumpet solos, marches, and a sprinkling of music from the "Mozart Festival," by Clair W. Johnson provided a colorful variety of tunes which were not only stimulating but very appealing.

The group boasts its own concert pianist, a dance band of 17, and a small combo.

According to Lt. Warren Shields, Information Services Officer for the Wing, members of the band are looking forward to this appearance at Nantucket very much. The group gave a similar concert here last August and was very anxious to present a repeat performance.

From the size and enthusiasm of the Nantucket crowd, it was quite apparent that the 567th Air Force Band Concert was much appreciated. Even the weather failed to affect the success of the evening's performance. And the 300th Anniversary traditions were not forgotten as Mr. Howard Barber and three town ladies in old-fashioned garb posed in front of the band for a "group" picture.

July 24, 1959

Community Orchestra Concert In Well-Chosen Musical Variety

The genius who dreamed up the window cards advertising the mid-summer concert of the Nantucket Community Orchestra which took last night at the High School was place last night at the High School was right to feature on the display wasn't one person in the large audience who did not feel personal pride in the orchestra of 30 members, and in some vague way also, that they, too, were partly responsible for its success.

The wives and/or husbands who had done the baby sitting through prodigious hours of rehearsal had a right to the feeling. For everyone else it was a vicarious and luxurious spree of family identification with a music-making group which has grown steadily in stature from small beginnings two years ago. The program last night was well chosen. Thirty people cannot produce sonorous volume, so the music had to be light and fleet. Even with the admirable help of the red screens which were both background for the white dresses and shirts of the players and sounding boards for their instruments, it took a moment for ears to adjust to the relatively small tone. From there on, Estelle O'Grady, conducting, kept it in fine balance and proportion throughout the concert, which ranged from Sousa Marches, through musical comedy and light classics (with one not too successful excursion into a Handel Fugue), to "novelties" which permitted some of the talented members of the ensemble to delight their audience with solos.

The special one which comes to mind is the trio "Vilia," from "The Merry Widow," by Lehar. Milton Zlotin and Miriam Haskell, violinists, and Maud Jackson, Violist, created some notable moments of beauty. Their intonation was impeccable and the tone-quality way out of the amateur class. The same can be said for Walter O'Grady's delightful solo, "Lassus Trombone," by Henry Fillmore. But then, when one begins to mention individual contributions, there is scarcely a member of the orchestra who did not, at one time or another, add in some special way to the ensemble. The trumpets in Grofe's "Mississippi Suite," played by Parker Gray, Jr., and Robert Leske, echoed by Walter O'Grady and Dr. Walker; Dr. Walker's cadenza in Lecuona's "Malaguena," scored for piano, but played by the versatile doctor on the French horn; Joan Butler's wonderful undergirding of the string section with the vibrant accuracy of her string bass in Kreisler's "The Old Refrain," are a few such instances.

Greatest applause for the evening's music belongs to the conductor of the orchestra, Estelle O'Grady, who was also its founder. Estelle makes no pretense of being a professional conductor, but it was a joy last night to witness her further growth in this field. Especially effective was her use of the baton. Her hands, which used alone had sometimes to reach too far to be effective, were beautifully expressive as she used the conductor's legitimate tool, the baton. Estelle has come of age in her new skill.

Indeed, one has the strong impression that, given Estelle O'Grady: Walter O'Grady to catch her musical balls and toss them back to her, and Brooks Walker, to fill in with any needed instrument from tuba to autoharp, there could always be a Nantucket Community Orchestra.

July 24, 1959

Dignitaries and Air Force Band Reach Island Despite Fog

As the "Nantucket" docked at Steamboat Wharf, yesterday afternoon, with honored guests and the Air Force Band from Otis aboard, local officials breathed a sigh of relief. The biggest day of the 300th Anniversary celebration this summer would take place only a few hours behind schedule. Cloudy, foggy weather delayed plane and ship traffic considerably, but it failed to bring activities to a standstill.

The Executive Committee for the day was under the chairmanship of John L. Hardy. Other committee members were Albert G. Brock, William R. Waine, Ralph L. Harvey, and Charles P. Flanagan.

Among those guests who registered at the 300th Birthday Office almost immediately after leaving the boat were: State Treasurer and Mrs. John Kennedy and well over 100 legislators with their wives, children, and guests.

Those who arrived earlier were: Mr. and Mrs. William Swartley. Mr. Swartley is WBZ vice-president. Mayor and Mrs. Andrew Jarvis, of Portsmouth, N. H.; Mr. Don Guy, Boston Globe; Louis Rousso, Boston Globe photographer; Gerry Seskin, Alenger Advertising; Mrs. Doris Reid, Lesley College; Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Cole, WHDH; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Glennon, who is Steamship Authority chairman; Joseph Martin, former Speaker of the House; Hastings Keith, U. S. Representative; Mr. and Mrs. Everett Small, Board of Selectmen, Chatham, and Phil, Barbara, Cherie Nutting, Holiday Magazine.

At the clambake which was under the direction of Mr. Elmer Knight, of Holmes and Young in Plymouth, over 1,000 guests lined the tables under the tent at 3 p.m. Outside, Shirley and Elaine Wiley, Dorothy Adshead, Mary Hoadley, Mrs. Petumenous, and Mrs. Ruth Giffin were busily selling tickets.

Andrew Bunker Kniskern, who is the 300th Birthday child is a direct descendant of the first white child born on Nantucket, Mary Starbuck, daughter of Nathaniel Starbuck and Mary Coffin. It was only fitting that the speaker of the day at the big Anniversary clambake should be Edouard Stackpole the grandfather of the celebrated new-born baby.

There were many dignitaries aboard the boat, amongst them ex-speaker of the House Joseph Martin and the Honorable Hastings Keith whose imminent return on the afternoon boat occasioned a change in the scheduled events and they made their speeches before the clambake. The Master of Ceremonies was the Rev. Bradford Johnson of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, who gave the blessing. After Mr. Martin and Mr. Keith gave their congratulations to the island of Nantucket for its 300 years, Mr. Robert Mooney, our popular young Representative to the State Legislature, gave a welcome. Several people sent their regrets that they could not be present but it was gratifying to see the large contingent of people from the Massachusetts Legislature who had accepted their invitations to attend. Also, guests representing various places in and around Boston.

The County Commissioners, Messrs. Peace, Glidden, Garrett, and Killen made their boys. Then Dr. Will Gardner was accorded applause as the Senior Historian of the island. Mr. Edouard Stackpole, who is the Curator of Mystic Seaport Museum, was presented as one of the island's "exports for which it is famous." After the delicious clambake which took over an hour to devour, and under most disturbing sounds of the chairs and tables in the tent being withdrawn from the area, Mr. Stackpole valiantly told the tale of the founding of Nantucket by the first settlers 300 years ago, the subsequent division of the land, the drama of the court battles over the same as the years progressed, the establishment of Quakerism, the development of the whaling industry, the indomitable spirit of the islanders with their self-contained independence prevailing throughout the years.

He spoke about the fame of the exports of the island. First was the codfish which was dried on what is known as the Fish Lots and shipped to the Barbadoes. Later there were cranberries, whale products, and, strangely enough, school teachers. He spoke of Morace Manns' choice of Cyrus Peirce as the first principal of the first normal school of Massachusetts, where he not only set up the curriculum, but also acted as the janitor of the school as well. Maria Mitchell was the first professor of astronomy at Vassar College.

Mr. Stackpole told of the export of men who founded whaling communities elsewhere including Dunkirk, Milford Haven in Wales, and Hudson, N. Y. The oldtimers contributed their knowledge of whaling to these places where the street names still resound to Nantucket Avenue and the like.

With the fire of 1846, the exodus at the time of the Gold Rush, the financial panics, and the Civil War losses; plus the discovery of oil out of the earth, the decline of the influence of Nantucket as a seaport was complete. Its greatest contribution came from the logbooks of the ships from whence comes the proof of the authenticity of maritime history of the United States. He told of the rarity of logbooks from the 18th century where there are many for the great whaling era of the 19th century about which Mr. Stackpole writes in his authoritative book, "Sea Hunters," for which he received a Guggenheim Fellowship a few years ago. Mr. Stackpole has written many books about Nantucket for boys including "Madagasca Jack," which tells a lot about whaling, and his latest is an exciting one called "Dead Mens' Gold" in which the central character is Andrew Bunker. Though written with youthful readers in mind, his books have great appeal for "boys of all ages." His talk at the 300th Anniversary Clambake was well received by the group of interested people who did not have to leave because of work or other appointments. This was largely due to the fact that the starting hour had been so delayed by the lateness of the boat. There was an appreciative applause for the scholarly presentation followed by the benediction pronounced by Rev. Bruce Koernor, of the Methodist Church.



Congressman Joseph W. Martin, former Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, rests in front of 300th Birthday Headquarters before congratulating Nantucket on its birthday.



A youngster listening to the Otis Air Force Band as they entertained at the 300th Birthday Cambake.

July 3, 1959

Concert of Great Charm By Josephine Hall

On Sunday evening last, Josephine Hall, mezzo-soprano, gave a recital in Bennett Hall, accompanied by her 15-year-old daughter, Toni. Except for the first two numbers, the Handel "Thanks Be to Thee," and the Bach "My Heart Ever Faithful," the program was made up of folk songs and spirituals—English and Irish songs, songs from the Hebrides, American and Creole songs.

It was a program of great charm, fulfilled by Mrs. Hall with poise, grace, and fine vocal adequacy. Her mezzo-soprano is characterized by sweetness rather than great volume. Her range is truly that of a mezzo, and she was wise to sing those songs which lay within it. I was sorry we could not have had the two opening arias repeated after Mrs. Hall and her young accompanist had warmed a bit past their first nervousness and had accommodated themselves, both piano and voice, to the acoustics of Bennett Hall, I am sure we would have found in them a less mechanical interpretation and more of the ease and warmth which made some of the folk songs so appealing.

My favorite was "An Eriskay Love Lift," from "Songs from the Hebrides." Tonally placed in a higher key than it frequently appears, it enabled Mrs. Hall to sing at her best — and that is very good, indeed.

The group of Creole songs, arranged by Camille Nickerson, of Howard University, who specializes in the perpetuation and arrangement of Creole music, was perhaps the most interesting. The language of the songs is almost French patois, the melodies are of French and Spanish origin, and the rhythms are strongly African. This group was climaxed by the satirical "Michieu Banjo."

Miss Toni did a valient job at the piano. She managed her page-turning with the swift smoothness of a professional, page-turning which is the prize bugaboo of all accompanists. She handled complicated rhythms with verve and accuracy and if she did any note-faulting it certainly didn't reach this pair of ears. Once in a while, she seems to forget she was only one-half of the musical team, and overpowered her mother's voice and interpretation. But in the American folk song group and the group of spirituals, she supported the singer with sensitivity and flexibility. As her experience increases, she gives much promise of distinction in the field of accompanying.

Mrs. Hall responded to her enthusiastic audience with several encores, the last of which was, "Bless This House," sung unaccompanied. Her voice was at its loveliest, her personal communication at its most endearing. Bless you, Josephine Hall.

Flora Mercer Brennan

Community Orchestra And Its Village Band Warmly Received By Audience Of 300

The Nantucket Community Orchestra, and its thriving offshoot, The Village Band, presented a Summer's End Concert last night in the Nantucket High School Auditorium before an appreciative audience of 300.

Sandwiched between the orchestral selections were six peppy numbers by the Village Band, Anchors Aweigh, Die Lorelei, Turkey in the Straw which was their best, Peggy O'Neil, Minstrel Boy and the Island's song, Down In Old Nantucket, which the audience sang with the band.

The orchestra's director, Mrs. Walter O'Grady, led the 21-piece Band playing the lead clarinet. The Band also obliged with an encore, an amusing novelty number called Goofus. The Band is made up of Orchestra personnel.

As usual in their concerts, the full Orchestra played several band numbers, raising the curtain with the national anthem, followed by Eric Coates Knightbridge March from the London Suite, and closing the program with Goldman's On the Mall, with the audience again participating, this time humming and whistling the refrain.

It was no strain for the listeners to join the musicians. They appreciated their townsfolk playing just as much as the Orchestra seemed to enjoy giving the concert.

The orchestra also played the lovely Mozart Ave Verum Corpus, the sweet Spanish strains of Siboney and the Rickey arrangement of Alfred Newman's Street Scene, and it was in this last selection that the orchestra showed the progress they have made with an excellent balance between strings and brasses and some fine instrumental work by individual orchestra members.

From the string section concertmaster Milton Zlotin, violin, Miriam Haskell, second violin, and- Maud Jackson, violist, repeated the haunting string trio Vilia, by Franz Lehar, a performance that delighted the audience at an earlier concert.

Another repeat performance was a novelty trombone solo, Lassus Trombone, by Walter O'Grady, which brought rousing hand claps.

The orchestra closed the Summer season with a well rehearsed encore, Syncopated Clock, but one encore was not enough from the appreciative audience, which would have liked to have had more from their Community Orchestra.

Orchestra personnel include the following: first violin, Milton Zlotin, Richard Mauldin, Cleona Miltimore and Mary Parmelee; second violin, Miriam Haskell, Charles Jewett, Olive Pope and Freida Reed; viola, Tell Berna, Maud Jackson and David Parmelee; violincello, Mabel Barber; string bass, Joan Butler; oboe, Philip Jensen; clarinet, Estelle O'Grady, the Orchestra's director, Herbert Cabral, Philip Jensen, Barry Zlotin; tenor saxophone, George Allen; French horn, H. Brooks Walker; trumpet, Parker Gray Jr., Robert Leske, Donald Van derWolk; trombone, Walter O'Grady; tuba, H. Brooks Walker; percussion, Frank Dinsmore, Joan Kaufman and Robert VanArsdale.

Mrs. Charles Jewett is the Orchestra librarian, lighting was done by Arthur Robertson. Herbert Cabral and Howard Barber handled tickets and advertising, Reginald Haskell, ticket collections, and George Allen, seating arrangements.

Sept. 11, 1959

Quartet Warmly Received For Musicianship

The third of the 300th birthday committee sponsored Celebrity Concerts drew 150 people to the Unitarian Church Monday night. It was a small but warmly appreciative audience that listened to the finest of the concerts to date.

The muted lights casting their shadows in the richly interiored church and the towering vases of blue hydrangea and white gladioli behind the players created a harmonious setting for the chamber music concert. The excellent acoustics of the Church were well suited to this kind of music.

A comparatively new ensemble, the quartet, which was hailed by critics after their Town Hall debut, brought youthful dedication and fine musicianship to the performance.

The young men made a richly intellectual evening with their playing of the ethereal Haydn quartet in B flat major, Opus 76 No. 4, the impressionistic and visionary Debussy Quartet in G minor, and the strongly structured Brahms quartet in C minor, opus 51, no. 1.

Marc Gottlieb played on a rare 18th century violin loaned him by his hostess, Mrs. Leeds Mitchell. The first violinist remarked that it was the Guarnerius which belonged to the late Mr. Mitchell, that was creating much of the beauty the audience was hearing.

Before catching the 11:40 flight out, the quartet played a movement from a Dvorak quartet as an encore.

Other members of the quartet besides Mr. Gottlieb were Vladimir Weisman, violin, William Schoen, viola and Irving Klein, cello.

They were house guests of Mrs. Mitchell at Leedsmoor in Polpis after their Sunday night 11:40 flight had arrived at 2:30 Monday morning, as Mr. Gottlieb told the audience. Mrs. Mitchell has entertained the other musicians brought here for the celebrity concerts, the four Spanish flamenco artists and the Negro folk singer Odetta and her husband Don Gordon.

The next of the series is Aug. 31 at the Unitarian Church when Leonard Rose presents a cello concert.

Aug. 7, 1959

Excellent Concert Presented By Claremont Quartet

By Flora Mercer Brenan

It took only a few opening bars of Haydn played by the Claremont Quartet, third of the Celebrity Concert Series in honor of the 300th Anniversary of Nantucket, on Monday night, to bring the audience to alert attention. Were the acoustics of the Unitarian Church really that good? Was it so long since a "live" quartet had been heard that its characteristic tonal impact had been forgotten? Were these young men using exceptional violins? Was this an unusually gifted and dedicated ensemble which welded four persons into a single instrument?

The answer to all these question had to be, "Yes." The Claremont Quartet (Marc Gottlieb, Vladimir Weisman, William Schoen, and Irving Klein) was formed as the result of close musical friendship.

There is nothing placid or stodgy in the approach of these young men to their scores. They play with verve and excitement. Although abundantly capable of velvet legatos and long, contemplative line, they impress one as fresher and more vigorous than many other quartets, in everything from their spontaneous body movements to the exceptionally wide range of dynamics which they use to create color possibilities not often envisaged.

The sonority of the ensemble was superb. As Mr. Gottlieb engagingly explained when he interrupted the program to thank Mrs. Leeds Mitchell for graciously lending to him for the evening her late husband's treasured Guarnerius, "Some of the beautiful sounds you are hearing are due to the instrument." Mr. Weisman's violin was a rare example of Carlo Gagliano, made in 1759. Mr. Schoen plays a Joannes Baptiste Genova viola made in 1770. Mr. Klein's cello is a Deconet, dated 1742. And the acoustics of the Unitarian Church, using the pulpit as a sounding board for the men seated below it, were quite remarkable.

Add then, to this fine combination of temperaments and instruments the wealth of trained musicianship and ardent study which each man pools for the integrity of every score, and you come up with something really special in the way of string quartets. Their program was chosen with discrimination. They played three quartets: the Haydn "Sunrise," in B flat major, Opus 76, No. 4; the Debussy Quartet in G minor, Opus 10, and the Brahms Quartet in C minor, Opus 51, No. 1. To the delight of their audience, they responded to the ovation at the end of the evening with an encore, the last movement of Dvorak's "American" string quartet.

The Haydn, written during his greatest period, and more romantic in feeling than many quartets which preceeded it under his fertile pen, was charming, ingenious, melodic, wonderfully rhythmic. It was such gay and pleasant music! The Debussy Quartet, certainly one of the best-loved by this commentator, was in strong contrast, with its dissonance, its emotional storm, its passion, and its miraculous third movement, "Andantion doucement expressif," which the Claremont Quartet played like angels.

Brahms, Opus 51, No. 1, was sterner stuff. Strength of structure, organic unity, and the variety of cross rhythms make great demands, mostly unmet, on its players. But not on this Quartet. At one crucially difficult yet smooth interchange of passage-work between the four, I remember thinking with awe: "It must have happened in the mind of Mr. Brahms just as it is coming now to our ears!"

This does not happen often in any composer's lifetime. Among the many appreciative listeners who more than half-filled the sanctuary of the church, I kept missing three men who would thoroughly have enjoyed being there — Joseph Haydn, Claude Debussy, and Johannes Brahms. I think they would have liked what they heard.

Aug. 7, 1959



Famed Cellist To Appear Here Aug 31

Acclaimed in the United States and abroad as one of the great contemporary master virtuosi, Cellist Leonard Rose will give a concert at the Unitarian Church at 8:30 pm August 31 as the fourth artist on Nantucket's 300th Birthday observance's celebrity series.

The American artist has received great ovations in his appearances throughout this country and Canada and in his first extensive European tour last season.

Following a Brussels World's Fair recital last October, a noted critic wrote of his performance: "There have appeared on the stage of the American Theater primarily pianists, violinists and singers. Therefore, it was fitting to end these brilliant recitals by presenting a cellist. . . lovers of good music were given a treat. Leonard Rose's recital was not only equal to all the great recitals so far heard in the American Theater, it was the high point of the musical events organized there."

Mr. Rose's performances in Brussels, London, Paris, Zurich, The Hague and elsewhere also won wide praise. The American cellist was booked for a return tour on the Continent next Winter.

The San Francisco News critic hailed Mr. Rose as one who "can hold his own with the greatest cellists in the world."

New York Times music critic Bosley Crowther says of Mr. Rose, he is "universally known as a musician of extraordinary sensitiveness and skill."

Mr. Rose has been first cellist with the New York Philharmonic and with the Cleveland Orchestra. He was also a member of the NBC Symphony Orchestra when it was under the direction of Arturo Toscanini.

He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music where he studied under Felix Salmond, and for many years has been a judge for the Music Talent in Our Schools series conducted by New York radio station WQXR.

Pease's garage is putting on a special bus the night of the concert to transport Sconseters. The bus will leave from Pease's garage after the concert for 'Sconset.

Aug 29, 1959

Concert by Leonard Rose, Cellist Presents Fine Program

Leonard Rose, cellist, was presented on Monday night, August 31, as fourth in the Celebrity Concerts for Nantucket's three hundredth anniversary. His advance publicity in our local papers was very strong in praise for his European concert tours without reservation. Now Nantucket understands why. It is doubtful if a more beautiful concert has ever taken place in the Unitarian Church than that performed by Mr. Rose and his pianist, Frank Iogha, last Monday.

To begin with, the program was beautifully chosen and well-arranged. With a little impromptu shifting during the course of the evening, the first half consisted of the Bach Aria in C Minor, Sonata in E Major by Francoeur-Trowell, the romantic Fantasy Pieces, Opus 73, by Schumann, and was climaxed by the great Beethoven cello Sonata No. 3 in A Major. The second half began with the infrequently heard Debussy Sonata, one of three written after the first World War, designed to be played without pause, emphasizing its strong Spanish rhythms by a pizzicato suggesting the guitar. The concert ended with the Tchaikowsky Rococo Variations, a fine show piece if you don't mind its sentimental tunes and if you like variations in the first place. In spite of the warm night, Mr. Rose graciously responded with two encores, the Chopin C Sharp Minor Nocturne, and Jacques Ibert's "Little White Donkey."

As an evening of tonal pleasure, it was without compare. There were just no tones, from either cello or piano, which were blunted or forced or exaggerated or shrill. In a recital of this calibre, it is taken for granted that the technical proficiency of the performers will meet the implications of the scores, and this was indeed the case. Furthermore, the balance between piano and cello was maintained with rare consistency. Too few people know how to make that protean instrument, the piano a genuinely contributing factor in ensemble, but Frank Iogha has it solved. Another factor which played a notable part in the maintenance of beautiful sound was Mr. Rose's instrument, one which lacks just three years of celebrating its own three hundredth anniversary. It was made in 1662 by the Nicolo Amati who turned out superb violins in addition to violas and cellos. Mr. Rose said that there are five such instruments in the world, "and mine is the best." This we can believe.

While each portion of the program was approached with imagination, and each spoke veraciously in its own true idiom, it seems to me that the Beethoven was an extraordinary achievement in interpretation, not to be passed over lightly. It was not just that the Scherzo was a movement of off-beat with tremendous distinction, or that the touching Cantabile melted into a piano whirlwind immediately echoed by a cello. If such a thing could be possible, it was as if the two musicians made Beethoven even more Beethoven. It was as if they had walked into that celestial beauty and said: "See—here is the man. Discover him with us."

All things worked together for the enhancement of this concert, the lighting, the flowers, and again, the fine accoustical properties of the Unitarian Church, which was well filled by the audience. Even the clock, striking nine, graciously chose to be in the right key for the Schumann Fantasy Pieces it interrupted. As we all quietly waited out the fifty-two strokes, it seemed fitting that Nantucket should speak in its own voice at such a distinguished concert.

Sept. 4, 1959



FIESTA FLAMENCA: Lovely Spanish dancer Adela Valle is one of the four artists who will be presented in the first of the five Celebrity Concerts Monday night. She will be joined by Sarita Amor in malaguenas, boleros, Andalusian folk dances and flaming flamenco rhythms. Samico Yohai, flamenco guitarist, will accompany them, while Julio Prol will play the classical guitar in a program of Haydn, Villa-Lobos, and Spanish composers. Concert goers will hear folk singer Odetta, The Claremont string quartet, cellist Leonard Rose, Trinidad dancer Geoffrey Holder and baritone Rawn Spearman in the other programs in the series presented by the 300th birthday committee.

400 *Greet Spanish Dancers And Guitarists*

Though the sign at 'Sconset reads Spain 3000 miles away, that distance was obliterated when a quartet of Spanish dancers and guitarists performed Monday night in the Nantucket High School Auditorium before an audience of over 400.

The Fiesta Flamenca was the first of the series of five celebrity concerts presented this Summer by the 300th birthday committee.

Spectators left their seats on the floor for the bleachers to gain a better view of dancers Adela Valle and Sarita Amor as they performed the malaguenas, boleros and flamencos, and guitarists Julio Prol and Samico Yohai playing Spanish classical and folk music.

The more graceful of the two dancers was Senorita Valle whose controlled performance of the more formal dances was matched only by her stormy executions of the flamencos. The more earthy Senorita Amor flung herself about in fine fashion in the gypsy dances. Both displayed astonishing footwork as they pounded the stages in their primitive flamenco rhythms.

As rapidly as they danced, the Senoritas switched their costumes for each number and raised and lowered their flowing locks to suit the style of music.

Classical guitarist Julio Prol carried the middle section of the program alone. His interpretations were sensitive and expressive, but the instrument's intimacy was lost in the large hall.

Senor Prol handicapped himself in his choice of selections, many of them made familar by the greatest master of the classical guitar, Andres Segovia. Any artist would suffer by comparison and Senor Prol did.

Samico Yohai brought a youthful intensity to his one solo, traditional guitar variations, which were an interesting contrast with Julio Prol's earlier playing of another set of variations. By far the finer artist was the older man, but the vigorous playing of Senior Yohai was most attractive.

Julio Prol and Adela Valle were a natural pairing in the presentation of the classical music, while Samico Yohai and Sarita Amor were well matched in the folk songs.

The quartet combined harmoniously at the program's opening and closing, wafting Spanish sights and sounds into fog bound, Yankee Nantucket. The wine on the cafe table was as real as the Latin fervor unleashed by the dancers.

The next concert in the series will again be folk music, this time Negro singer Odetta who will perform July 27 at the Unitarian Church.

July 10, 1959

, AUGUST 28, 1959

Concert of Great Charm By Josephine Hall

On Sunday evening last, Josephine Hall, mezzo-soprano, gave a recital in Bennett Hall, accompanied by her 15-year-old daughter, Toni. Except for the first two numbers, the Handel "Thanks Be to Thee," and the Bach "My Heart Ever Faithful," the program was made up of folk songs and spirituals—English and Irish songs, songs from the Hebrides, American and Creole songs.

It was a program of great charm, fulfilled by Mrs. Hall with poise, grace, and fine vocal adequacy. Her mezzo-soprano is characterized by sweetness rather than great volume. Her range is truly that of a mezzo, and she was wise to sing those songs which lay within it. I was sorry we could not have had the two opening arias repeated after Mrs. Hall and her young accompanist had warmed a bit past their first nervousness and had accommodated themselves, both piano and voice, to the acoustics of Bennett Hall, I am sure we would have found in them a less mechanical interpretation and more of the ease and warmth which made some of the folk songs so appealing.

My favorite was "An Eriskay Love Lift," from "Songs from the Hebrides." Tonally placed in a higher key than it frequently appears, it enabled Mrs. Hall to sing at her best — and that is very good, indeed.

The group of Creole songs, arranged by Camille Nickerson, of Howard University, who specializes in the perpetuation and arrangement of Creole music, was perhaps the most interesting. The language of the songs is almost French patois, the melodies are of French and Spanish origin, and the rhythms are strongly African. This group was climaxed by the satirical "Michieu Banjo."

Miss Toni did a valient job at the piano. She managed her page-turning with the swift smoothness of a professional, page-turning which is the prize bugaboo of all accompanists. She handled complicated rhythms with verve and accuracy and if she did any note-faulting it certainly didn't reach this pair of ears. Once in a while, she seems to forget she was only one-half of the musical team, and overpowered her mother's voice and interpretation. But in the American folk song group and the group of spirituals, she supported the singer with sensitivity and flexibility. As her experience increases, she gives much promise of distinction in the field of accompanying.

Mrs. Hall responded to her enthusiastic audience with several encores, the last of which was, "Bless This House," sung unaccompanied. Her voice was at its loveliest, her personal communication at its most endearing. Bless you, Josephine Hall.

Flora Mercer Brennan



Folk Singer To Appear Mon. Night

The Negro folk singer, Odetta, will give the second in the series of celebrity concerts sponsored this Summer by the 300th birthday committee.

The celebrated songstress will be heard at the Unitarian Church on July 27 in a program of folk music at 8:30 pm.

Although in the tradition of Bessie Smith and Leadbelly, Odetta's unique gifts have placed her in a category of her own. She has been acclaimed by critics for her "warm, positive and enormously skillful musical personality". Said the *New York Herald Tribune* about the Alabama born singer, "Odetta is a Negress who seems six foot tall and has a baritone voice. Her bearing is that of a princess, her manner that of an intensely devoted executant who has something to say and the wherewithal to say it."

Trained in classical music, she turned to folk music while she was in the West Coast cast of Finian's Rainbow. She has been heard in night clubs in New York, Chicago and San Francisco, sang in the film Cinerama Holiday and has appeared on NBC-TV's Tonight. She gave a concert at Town Hall in New York this Spring, and has recorded two albums for Tradition Records.

Odetta, who accompanies herself on an outsized guitar, will sing tender feminine ballads and virile worksongs, sea chanties and Negro spirituals, nonsense songs and the blues.

Tickets are on sale at Miss Cora Stevens' store on Main Street and at the 300th birthday booth on Broad Street.

July 24, 1959

Capacity Audience Thrilled by Concert of Folk Singer Odetta

Trying to catch in words the artist, the spirit, the voice, the person, known as Odetta, Folk Singer, has recently become a major paper game with those whose business it is to record impressions of musical events. Odetta appeared as the second of the Celebrity Concerts in honor of Nantucket's three hundredth anniversary at the Unitarian Church on Monday night. A few days before, she had sung at the Newport, Rhode Island, Folk Festival, a matter noted in last weekk's Caturday Review. After her Town Hall debut in New York in April, 1959, the Times and the Herald Tribune used such phrases as: "a Negress who seems six-foot tall and has a baritone voice"; "bearing of a princess"; "one of the leading exponents of music born of the people."

But all this having been said, perhaps Nantucketers needed Odetta Delius's long walk down the middle aisle of the Unitarian Church to permit her to register herself in clean

July 31, 1959

450 *'Electrified' By 'Superb' Voice Of Singer-Guitarist In Varied Repertoire*

A rich personality with a superb voice electrified an overflowing audience at the Unitarian Church Monday night.

Odetta's impact was instantaneous when she walked down the aisle looking like a gospel singer in her full pink robe. A warm, responsive feeling filled the church, and Odetta, as sensitive as she is powerful, returned the appreciation in a superb outpouring of music.

Some of the songs she introduced herself, others she swung into directly with her brawny forearm stroking an outsized guitar. Her repertoire included lullabies both tender and sardonic, funny little nonsense songs, virile work ballads, moving spirituals and love ballads, sung with an amazing range of emotions and interpretations. Her voice was as wide and colorful as life itself.

The strength of Odetta's personality burst through her music in a gift of communication few artists ever achieve. Without reserve she channeled her vitality and musical talent into a perfect marriage between a rich contralto voice and a steel stringed guitar.

"It's a temperamental instrument," she said referring to her National guitar, "This particular one has fits." "This particular one" which was alternately pounded and carressed, was the perfect accompaniment to her voice. In larger concerts like the Newport Folk Music Festival two weeks ago, or in her recordings, Odetta adds a single double bass accompaniment.

Odetta was smooth and sweet as she sang the love ballads, and loud and brassy in the prison and work songs. To the spirituals she brought the sorrow, and the grandeur, of her race.

One of the high points of the evening came in Odetta's rendition of John Henry, her voice hammering the spikes into the rails as she sang the story of the steel driving man.

John Henry was surpassed only by the spiritual, I'm on My Way which was an extraordinary experience for her audience. Her voice crescendoed with the power and drive of a steam engine from a soft, slow beginning to fill the church in a soaring outburst.

For Nantucket's 300th she sang a Californian sea chanty, Santy Anno, and ended her two-hour concert with a delightful nonsense song entitled why after a small child's incessant questioning.

More than 450 heard Odetta in the largest celebrity concert of the season. The next in the 300th birthday committee sponsored series will be Monday night, again in the Unitarian Church at 8:30, when the Claremont Quartet will play a concert of chamber music.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Goetz are at their Ocean Avenue home in Sconset for the Summer.

July 31, 1959

Fifth Celebrity Concert Next Monday Night

On Monday, Labor Day, September 7, the final concert of the Celebrity Concert Series, sponsored by the 300th Anniversary Committee, will be held at Nantucket High School at 8:30 p.m.

This concert will feature Geoffrey Holder, one of the most exciting young personalities in the artistic world and perhaps the most prodigious, multi-faceted talent to arrive on the theatrical scene since Orson Welles. Only four years out of Port-au-Spain, Trinidad, this one-man cultural center has become a most successful dancer, currently being premier danseur with the Metropolitan Opera Company; an established painter who has had four one-man art shows in New York; and a featured stage and television actor who has garnered excellent reviews. His



appearance here will be as a dancer, performing some of his well-known modern interpretive "dances of life," accompanied by two steel drummers. He was the first to introduce the haunting and melodious beat of the steel drums in America, having brought his drummers here from Trinidad as part of his troupe in "House of Flowers," the exotic musical that brought him to Broadway.

Appearing with Geoffrey Holder will be Rawn Spearman, distinguished young baritone. This brilliant singer has made three concert tours of the United States, plus Broadway and television appearances; recitals in Town Hall in New York, and as soloist with the New York Philharmonic Symphony at Lewisohn Stadium. His program will concentrate on presenting the imperishable folk-classical song literature, some with piano background, at which he is so adept, as well as the formal repertoire in which he has established such a firm reputation. He will be accompanied at the piano by Bernard Kritzman.

Tickets for this last, and in some ways most exciting, concert may be obtained at Miss Cora Stevens store or the Nantucket Pharmacy on Main Street, the Information Bureau, or the 300th Birthday office.

Sept. 4, 1959

Rawn Spearman, Baritone; Geoffrey Holder, Dancer

By Flora Mercer Brennan

The concluding concert of the Celebrity Series, marking Nantucket's 300th anniversary, took place on Monday night in the High School Auditorium. The program was divided between Rawn Spearman, baritone, with Bernard Kritzman at the piano, and Geoffrey Holder, currently premier danseur with the Metrolopitan Opera Company, whose modern interpretive and Haitian folk-derived dances were supported by the Congo drum of Alex Cambrelen and the steel drum of Michael Alexander.

Those of us who once knew old fashioned Fourth of July celebrations had certain expectations for the concluding fireworks which almost never were violated. The best was saved for last. You went to bed with the highest and brightest and most colorful and noisiest rockets still making rainbow stars behind your eyes, and stirring up memories to shiver over for another 12 months.

But once in a while, there was an accident and the magic didn't come off according to expectation. The rockets fizzed, or rain came, or the firing hadn't been planned carefully enough, or there were too many eager people all trying helpfully to get into the act, with resulting chaos.

And that it what happened to the final concert of the Celebrity Series. With two of the most spectacularly gifted individuals of the whole summer, Mr. Spearman and Mr. Holder, the concert as a whole was poorly planned, amateurishly stage-managed, and left one with a sense of disappointment that neither of the two men had been given a chance to communicate with the audience except in snatches. The contrast was sharper for the suave management of the three concerts in the Unitarian Church. Odetta, the Claremont Quartet, Leonard Rose, needed neither introduction nor explanation. They were their own best spokesmen.

Mr. Samuel Barlow would have been well advised to permit Monday's concert, also, to speak for itself—his remarks were well-nigh inaudible, and served no introductory purpose. Mr. Spearman's whole first group of songs by Vivaldi, Dowland, Handel, and Beethoven, was sung under the handicap of lighting adjustments one would assume should have been completed before the concert began. It was a great credit to Mr. Spearman that in spite of the confusion, he quietly captured the complete attention of his listeners in the Beethoven "Adelaide."

It was his second group, sung without accompaniment except for a few softly touched piano notes, that suddenly revealed the true gift of this young singer. The songs were folk genre: "Robert Lee," "Pit a Po' Boy," "I Wan' to Be Ready," "Lit'l Boy." The rhythms were marked by hand claps, either real or mimed. But what happened in the singing of the songs was beyond all art. That living song cannot be taught. You may call it pure mysticism, you may call it the essence of religion. You only know that you have been stabbed by shocking beauty.

It seemed a great pity to cut short Mr. Spearman's portion of the program just here, even in order to welcome Geoffrey Holder. Each man could have used a whole program to himself, for there was no relevance in their combination. Geoffrey Holder's dancing, superb in every facet of technique, sophistocated, witty, humorous; evocative, in the Haitian dances dedicated to Damballa, the Snake God, of the mystery and chill of Voodoo rites; could not be compressed into four separate numbers, no matter how brilliant, without leaving in his audience an irritated sense of frustration. Holder is one of the truly great male dancers of our day.

Whether or not is was he who first introduced steel drums to America in his Broadway musical, "House of Flowers," his Congo drummer, Alex Cambrelen, has been associated with another great male dancer, Jean Leon Destine, and his Haitian troupe. Indeed, as long as six years, Alex Cambrelen was drumming with the "genii of the drums," Alphonse Cimber, in Westchester County, N. Y., the same "drum argument" which Cabrelen and Michael Alexander performed Monday night. It is perennially amusing and perennially requires virtuoso drummers.

And so the Celebrity Concerts come to a close. The entire series was an enriching and splendid addition to Nantucket's 300th summer. The gratitude of the entire community belongs to those people who diligence and vision made it possible.

Sept. 11, 1959

Nantucket Community Orchestra In Final Concert Next Saturday

Closing a successful summer season, the Nantucket Community Orchestra will present its final summer series concert on Thursday, September 10, at 8:15 in the evening at the Nantucket High School Auditorium.

Mrs. Walter O'Grady, director, has announced a feature of this concert will be the appearance of the Village Band. This instrumental group made its debut at the first outdoor concert this summer at the Atheneum steps and was enthusiastically applauded. They will be remembered for their lively reditions of many favorites and especially the official 300th Anniversary Song, "Down in Old Nantucket" which will be repeated at this concert with the hopes that the audience will participate in singing the chorus. The Village Band is led by Mrs. O'Grady who plays the lead clarinet.

The full orchestra will include selections from Broadway to Mozart, including the beautiful Ave Verum Corpus, Latin American favorite Siboney, Lassaus Trombone featuring a trombone solo by Walter O'Grady, Goldman's ever favorite On the Mall, the various rhythms of Street Scene, and the string trio in Vilia. The Vil-

(Conitnued on Page Seven)

Sept. 4

Community Orchestra Concert Closes Its Summer Season

By Flora Mercer Brennan

On Thursday night in the High School Auditorium, the Community Orchestra under the direction of Estelle O'Grady brought the season's concerts to a close with their Summer's End Concert. It was a recap of some of the music most popular at other concerts, with some delightful new additions. After the intermission, the Village Band was featured, that wind and percussion group which had captured the fancy of the town in its June Street Concert. It lost none of its earlier charm in this repeat performance, and one can't but hope that next summer, Nantucket may have weekly Village Band concerts, complete with popcorn.

As in all end-of-the-summer gatherings, there was a note of nostalgia. We missed the summer members of the orchestra whose instruments had enriched its tone. We were conscious that this was the last concert Miriam Haskell and Parker Gray would play before going away to school. We treasured the lovely picture made by the three who played "Vilia" — Milton Zlotin, Miriam Haskell and Maud Jackson — and admired the fine way Parker Gray supported Walter O'Grady's trombone solo, "Lassus Trombone."

Of the new music on the program, the Mozart "Ave Verum" was especially successful. A most unlikely piece to score for band, yet it came off and handsomely, with the string section used chorally and the other instruments gently rounding out the whole. Another pleasant new addition to the orchestra's repertoire was the Goldman favorite, "On the Mall". If the audience was startled by its inclusion in the sung and whistled trios, it rose to Estelle O'Grady's baton with enthusiasm, and would have been quite willing to go on to several more choruses.

It seems pretty obvious that everyone rises to Estelle O'Grady's baton with enthusiasm, including the orchestra members who have given so many hours of patient preparation to these concerts. Each concert gives more pleasure to its audience. Thank you, Estelle.

Sept. 18, 1959

Community Orchestra And Its Village Band Warmly Received By Audience Of 300

The Nantucket Community Orchestra, and its thriving offshoot, The Village Band, presented a Summer's End Concert last night in the Nantucket High School Auditorium before an appreciative audience of 300.

Sandwiched between the orchestral selections were six peppy numbers by the Village Band, Anchors Aweigh, Die Lorelei, Turkey in the Straw which was their best, Peggy O'Neil, Minstrel Boy and the Island's song, Down In Old Nantucket, which the audience sang with the band.

The orchestra's director, Mrs. Walter O'Grady, led the 21-piece Band playing the lead clarinet. The Band also obliged with an encore, an amusing novelty number called Goofus. The Band is made up of Orchestra personnel.

As usual in their concerts, the full Orchestra played several band numbers, raising the curtain with the national anthem, followed by Eric Coates Knightbridge March from the London Suite, and closing the program with Goldman's On the Mall, with the audience again participating, this time humming and whistling the refrain.

It was no strain for the listeners to join the musicians. They appreciated their townsfolk playing just as much as the Orchestra seemed to enjoy giving the concert.

The orchestra also played the lovely Mozart Ave Verum Corpus, the sweet Spanish strains of Siboney and the Rickey arrangement of Alfred Newman's Street Scene, and it was in this last selection that the orchestra showed the progress they have made with an excellent balance between strings and brasses and some fine instrumental work by individual orchestra members.

From the string section concertmaster Milton Zlotin, violin, Miriam Haskell, second violin, and Maud Jackson, violist, repeated the haunting string trio Vilia, by Franz Lehar, a performance that delighted the audience at an earlier concert.

Another repeat performance was a novelty trombone solo, Lassus Trombone, by Walter O'Grady, which brought rousing hand claps.

The orchestra closed the Summer season with a well rehearsed encore, Syncopated Clock, but one encore was not enough from the appreciative audience, which would have liked to have had more from their Community Orchestra.

Orchestra personnel include the following: first violin, Milton Zlotin, Richard Mauldin, Cleona Miltimore and Mary Parmelee; second violin, Miriam Haskell, Charles Jewett, Olive Pope and Freida Reed; viola, Tell Berna, Maud Jackson and David Parmelee; violincello, Mabel Barber; string bass, Joan Butler; oboe, Philip Jensen; clarinet, Estelle O'Grady, the Orchestra's director, Herbert Cabral, Philip Jensen, Barry Zlotin; tenor saxophone, George Allen; French horn, H. Brooks Walker; trumpet, Parker Gray Jr., Robert Leske, Donald Van derWolk; trombone, Walter O'Grady; tuba, H. Brooks Walker; percussion, Frank Dinsmore, Joan Kaufman and Robert VanArsdale.

Mrs. Charles Jewett is the Orchestra librarian, lighting was done by Arthur Robertson. Herbert Cabral and Howard Barber handled tickets and advertising, Reginald Haskell, ticket collections, and George Allen, seating arrangements.

Sept. 11, 1959

415 Coffins Come to Island for Big Family Reunion

As Nantucket celebrates its 300th Birthday this year, recalling customs and dress of days gone by, it seems equally as appropriate that generations of island descendants should gather together to carry on their family traditions. And nothing could be more inducive to drawing relatives from near and far than a spirited family reunion. With this in mind, approximately 415 Coffins, ranging all the way from six-month-old Glen Richard Coffin, great-grandchild of islander, Louis Coffin, to 94-year-old Miss B. Gardner Coffin, of Nantucket, met here this week on July 9, 10, and 11, some to trace their lineage and find their exact position on the family tree, some to meet relatives they had heard so much about but never seen, and others to view their ancestral home for the first time.

From Oregon, California, Colorado, South Carolina, Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Iowa, Tennesse, and 15 other States plus Nova Scotia and Canada, 320 Coffins descended upon the island to join with 95 Nantucket relatives in three days of concentrated family activities.

The reunion opened officially on Tuesday morning with registration at the Coffin School. Everyone checking in received blue-ribboned identification badges which soon could be spotted all about town. These badges were to be worn "conspicuously" by clan members at all reunion affairs.

Coffins signed the register, viewed the newspaper clippings, folders, and other such write ups about Coffin personalities and doings which had been gathered on a bulletin board for inspection, and picked up their banquet tickets for the following evening. Clusters of "cousins" could be seen fraternizing everywhere. Reunion headquarters were buzzing throughout the day.

In the afternoon, perfect Nantucket weather allowed Coffins to stroll from house to house visiting the historic Coffin homes and brushing up on family history. Among the houses open for inspection were: "The Oldest House" on Sunset Hill at which Mrs. William Perkins, Mrs. Ethel Clark, Miss Ethel Anderson, and Mrs. Stokeley W. Morgan were hostesses; the Jonathan Coffin House at 52 Centre Street, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Edgarton; Zenas Coffin house at 9 Pine Street, now belonging to Mr. George L. Dyer; the Henry Coffin House, at 75 Main Street, owned by grandson Henry Coffin Carlisle, and the Mary Coffin Swift House, at 91 Main Street, which Mr. Herman E. Riddell owns. Though all were not holding "open house, historic Coffin houses were listed so visitors could view the "outsides."

Wednesday morning found loyal Coffin gathering at the Oldest House for a group picture, the last having been taken at the 1881 reunion. If there is any place treated as a shrine on the island today it is the oldest house where the young couple, Jethro and Mary, succeeded in burying the old family feud between the Coffins and the Gardners when their parents built the house and gave it to them as a wedding gift. One parent had land and the other lumber and, after the tardy signing of the deed of title, the nuptials were celebrated. This "Horseshoe" house is a landmark to all Nantucketers and a blessed "tie that binds" for all the Coffins, their wives and husbands—cousins all— who have enjoyed these days together.

Throughout the day, family members visited local museums to see Coffin collectors' items, rested, and took part in Nantucket activities according to whatever they desired to do.

Main Street became the setting for Coffin reunion pictures by Look Magazine Special Features Editor Mrs. Patricia Coffin. Mrs. Coffin is working hard on a special feature about a New England reunion which will be presented through the eyes of an eight-year-old Coffin Descendant named Tristram.

At 7:30 that evening, the Reunion Dinner was held in the banquet hall of Sea Cliff Inn. Anyone could see the Coffins really enjoyed one another's company. The last time such a reunion was held was 78 years ago at which time the narrow gauge railroad to Surfside was about to open and the new hotel was ready for guests. A land boom was expected and house lots were laid out hoping that the advent of all the members of the Coffin family would get parcels of land to augment the economy of the island.

It was brought out that the tracks and railroad ties are gone and the hotel has disintegrated but the living evidence of the prolific Coffin family was attested to by the large gathering of over 400 this year.

The master of ceremonies, Mr. Vincent B. Coffin, saluted Dr. Will Gardner, who gave the blessing, then went on to say, "there is nothing like the Coffins. They are noisy, fractious, and loud." He had all the descendants of each child of Tristram Coffin stand. Many people two or three times, which is the result of the limitations the island set on the market of romance. Propinquity being essential to courting, it is not surprising to see multiple cousinship. When it was mentioned that the old records were very complete but that they were trying to keep up to date, it was said they better hurry, "it might get out of hand."

Town Clerk C. Clark Coffin, gave a welcome to all, mentioning all who had contributed to the gathering of the clan with especialy note of the efforts of Isabel Worth Duffy, the overall chairman of the 1959 reunion. Later she was presented a token dish from a tea set of Coffin-crested china which she will receive when it is completed, in loving recognition of all she has done this past year to implement the "best reunion ever."

Mr. George Jones expressed the wishes of the whole island when he gave a welcome to the Coffins, on behalf of the 300th Birthday Committee. It was the tercentenary which inspired the reunion so this was most appropriate in view of the fact that Mr. Jones is President of the Historical Association and chairman of the 300th Birthday Committee. He cited the fact there are 21 Coffins in the Nantucket directory which proves it is quite a popular name on the island today unlike the name "Jones" which, regarded by many as the most prevalent in the English language, has the small count of three families on the island.

Mrs. Mildred Coffin Edgarton told the story of the Oldest House. It was considered a "mansion" in its day and it was most unusual for a young couple to have a new house, where most of them lived with one or the other of the parents a while. Through the indirect appeal for the support of this important Coffin shrine it was decided that any surplus in the treasury after the reunion will go toward the preservation of the Oldest House.

Henry Coffin Carlisle gave some excerpts from some 69 letters about whaling he found, written between 1828 and 1863, quite "salty" with the wind in the rigging and suggesting dangers of the art of chasing the leviathan. At the close of one particularly harassing tale the letter ended with "Don't tell Susan."

Isabel Worth Duffy had a chance to speak to all those whom she had kept in touch with about the reunion when she told about the 1881 affair which lasted three days with a "brass band from off," sermons, and a specially-written anthem, the whole climaxed by a grand ball with 500 people attending in full dress, the gentlemen in white ties and tails. It was most appropriate that Mrs. Duffy speak about it as her grandfather, Allen Coffin organized the event.

As the next speaker, Mr. Dexter D. Coffin told several stories about the ancestors of the Coffin, dwelling on the Pine-Coffins, Portledge Manor in Devon, England, the seat from whence Tristram sprang long ago.

Other personages of note were Pat Coffin of Look Magazine who told of her work in general and plans for the Coffin saga in particular. Mr. Ralston H. Coffin, vice-president of RCA, who read greetings from Marie Coffin Wiley, of Honolulu, G. H. Graham, of Singapore, and Florence Bennett Anderson, of Walla Walla, Wash.

The cane of the first Tristram Coffin was presented to the Nantucket Historical Association and accepted by Mr. George Jones from Miss Helen Coffin,(of Hartford, Conn., who was ill and could not attend.

After Mrs. Jane Lamb read a poem dedicated to the Coffins, the meeting adjourned, but not before George S. Coffin, of Waltham, rose to query: "Will we have to wait another 78 years for the next reunion?" From the good time everyone had it is a sure thing it will be repeated—and soon.

July 16, 1959

Credit Where Credit Is Due

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

The Main Street Fete, eagerly awaited by all Nantucketers, is over. The weather cooperated with the hundreds of people who have been working for months to make the affair the outstanding success which everyone will surely agree it was. From morning to night youngsters from toddlers on up to their grandmothers and great-grandmothers had a perfectly wonderful time at the Fete.

There are lots of people who have worked long and hard for the Fete. But there is one person to whom a major portion of the credit should be given. That person is Mrs. J. Allen Backus.

Over a year ago, when the question first arose as to whether it might be a good idea to revive the Fete as part of the 300th Birthday Anniversary Celebration, Mrs. Backus was named as the one person who could assume the chairmanship of the Fete efficiently and capably. That she agreed to take on the job was typical of her willingness to help whenever and wherever she can, whether it be a fair, the Hospital Drive, the Red Cross Blood Bank, or some other charitable undertaking.

Mrs. Backus has worked throughout the winter months planning the Fete, organizing committees and subcommittees, solving the many problems which have popped up unexpectedly, smoothing out differences of opinion, arranging necessary meetings, and giving of herself untiringly and unselfishly in order that, when Fete day finally arrived, everything might go off smoothly and on time.

True, there have been many assistants on many committtees, all of whom deserve a great deal of credit for their hard work, but Harriet Backus was "the power behind the throne." Our most hearty thanks to her for a job well done.

Merle Turner Orléans
For the Committee

Aug. 20, 1959

481 *Coffin Cousins, Descendants Of Original Island Settler, Hold Reunion*

Clan Coffin cousins came from the four corners of the country this week for a three-day reunion on the Island their forebearers had settled and their first family gathering since 1881.

Neither as formal nor elaborate but nearly as large as the earlier gathering, the 20th century Coffins substituted a tour of historic Coffin homes for the 19th century promenade concert, informal talks for long orations, and a cup of tea at the Coffin School for a grand ball at Surfside.

There were 500 descendants at the 1881 reunion. Approximately 415 arrived on Nantucket in 1959 for three sunny days of getting acquainted with distant cousins. The high point of the gathering was a family dinner party Wednesday night at the Sea Cliff Inn. The dining room was jammed to the gunwales with 318 Coffin kin, as master of ceremonies Vincent Coffin put it, for "a fun party."

While Coffins shook hands, explored ancestral mansions and broke bread together, the gathering of the clan was recorded by *Look* magazine special departments editor Patricia Coffin and photographer James Hansen for a Fall feature in the magazine.

"An amazing party," said the master of ceremonies Vincent B. Coffin who is Chancellor of the University of Hartford. "Comparisons are odious," he continued, "so let's get into them immediately," as he described the Macy family reunion in June which drew 194.

"All descendants of Peter Coffin, first son of Tristram and Dionis, please rise," he asked, as a scattering stood up in the large hall. As the descendants of the children were recognized, the Coffin cousins gasped when the progeny of James, fourth son, arose. The large group proved the description of Allen Coffin in The Life of Tristram Coffin of James' descendants as "the most numerous and generally scattered" of the Coffin family.

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July 10, 1959

Nantucket chairman Charles Clark Coffin extended the welcome to the group, while Vincent Coffin gave credit to family members for their part in handling the reunion.

The committee included Mrs. Isabel Worth Duffy, chairman; Charles C. Coffin; Alcon Chadwick, treasurer; Richard M. Everett, historic Coffin houses; Richard F. Coffin and Jane T. Lamb, Coffin School activities; Richard M. Coffin and H. Errol Coffin, commemorative booklet; Priscilla Coffin Baxter, Patricia Coffin, Mildred Coffin Edgarton and Florence Worth, publicity; and Dexter D. Coffin, Ralston H. Coffin and Vincent B. Coffin, reunion dinner.

A welcome was also given by George W. Jones as head of the Nantucket Historical Association, the 300th birthday steering committee, and a Coffin himself.

The rich history of the Coffins was covered by four speakers including an appeal by Mrs. Mildred Coffin Edgarton of Syracuse, N.Y. to ensure the financial support of the Jethro Coffin house. The former chairman of the Oldest House, explained that Historical Association Funds were insufficient for the upkeep and restoration of the building.

Warmly applauded by the Coffins was the master of ceremonies' answer to her suggestion that any profit from the reunion be used for the Oldest House.

Mrs. Edgarton outlined the house's history, telling the romantic tale of how its erection healed the breach between the Gardners and Coffins.

Another suggestion came from speaker Henry Coffin Carlisle who asked to have a committee formed to work on the genealogy of the 100,000 descendants, "and a committee to check on them".

Mr. Carlisle covered his topic of whaling by reading excerpts from 69 letters of whaling captains. "You can hear the wind go through the rigging when you read them," said Mr. Carlisle who has given a copy of one of them to the Whaling Museum.

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A further honor to the Coffin name was announced as Vincent Coffin introduced Dexter D. Coffin, the final speaker in the Echoes from the Past section. A bridge spanning the Connecticut at Windsor Locks, Conn. will be dedicated Saturday, said the Chancellor, and by popular demand it will be known as the Dexter D. Coffin bridge.

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"With love and devotion and deep appreciation for making this reunion possible," he presented "cousin Isabel" with a sample plate of the Coffin commemorative china. A tea set for four will be sent to Mrs. Duffy this Summer. The china was designed by architect H. Errol Coffin of Nantucket and New York who also did the reunion booklets.

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Three prominent Coffins scheduled to speak in Voices of Living Coffins were unable to attend.

Speaking for the Living Coffins were the *Look* editor, Patricia Coffin, daughter of a Foreign Service officer, who told her cousins of her job with *Look* and the feature tie-in on the New England family reunion.

The feature is centered on eight-year-old Tristram Coffin, son of Princeton professor David Robbins Coffin, and more than 1000 pictures have been made of the boy and his hundreds of cousins. *Look* is expected to publish with the feature a two-page spread of the family photograph made Wednesday morning at the Jethro Coffin house.

The vice-president of RCA, Ralston H. Coffin, ended the evening by reading greetings from distant relatives, Marie Coffin Wylie of Honolulu, Dr. G. H. Graham of Singapore who runs a Seventh Day Adventist Hospital and Florence Bennett Anderson of Walla Walla, Wash.

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Introduced from the floor were Miss Winifred Coffin of Santa Barbara, who came from farthest away; Louis Coffin of Cincinnatti, family genealogist, who left cards at the dinner settings to bring his records up to date, and Charles Cleveland Coffin of Montclair, N.J. who gave pictures of the Coffin school to his cousins as his contribution to the family gathering.

Sending greetings in a telegram was Lieutenant Colonel E. C. Pine-Coffin of Portledge, Devon, England.

Seated at the head table were Dr. William E. Gardner who gave the invocation, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent B. Coffin of Hartford, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clark Coffin of Nantucket, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Jones of Nantucket, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Edgarton of Syracuse, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. James Duffy of Nantucket, Mr. and Mrs. Dexter D. Coffin of Windsor Locks, Miss Patricia Coffin, Mr. and Mrs. Ralston H. Coffin, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Caldwell of Nantucket. Mr. Caldwell is chairman of the 300th birthday family reunions.

Publisher George S. Coffin of Waltham summed up the feelings of the group when he asked from the floor at the close of the dinner, "Do we have to wait another 78 years for the next reunion?"

During their stay on Nantucket 13 historic Coffin houses were opened to the family members. The kinsmen visited the Josiah Coffin house on Cliff Road, the Jonathan Coffin house at 52 Centre Street, the Allen Coffin house at 94 Main, the Micajah Coffin house at 14 Pine, the Charles G. Coffin house at 78 Main, the Henry Coffin house at 75 Main, the Benjamin Coffin house at 98 Main, the Jared Coffin house at 19 Pleasant, the William Coffin house at 18 Union, the Ann Coffin Crosby Macy house at 86 Main, the Lydia Coffin Crosby house at 90 Main, and the Eunice Coffin Macy house at 99 Main.

The Coffin School was the headquarters for the group which included 94 Nantucketers and 322 off-Islanders. Broken down into families there were 52 represented from the Island, and 186 from the mainland.

The hostesses for the reunion were Mrs. Henry C. Carlisle, Mrs. Charles Clark Coffin, Mrs. Dexter D. Coffin, Mrs. H. Errol Coffin, Mrs. Ralston H. Coffin, Mrs. Richard F. Coffin, Mrs. Vincent B. Coffin, Mrs. Mary C. W. Ditmars, Mrs. Lewis S. Edgarton, Mrs Richard M. Everett and Miss Dorothy Gardner.



CLAN COFFIN CONVENES: From four points of the compass 415 members of the Clan Coffin converged on Nantucket for a three-day reunion on the Island where the founder of the family, Tristram Coffin, settled in the 17th century. In the background is the Island's oldest house, the Horseshoe or Jethro Coffin House, and Coffin cousins unanimously voted profits from their reunion go towards maintenance and restoration of the 1686 building owned by the Nantucket Historical Association. The Jethro Coffin House was only one of 13 historic Coffin homes opened to the kinsmen, who made their headquarters at the Isaac Coffin School.

High point of the gathering of the clan was a family dinner at the Sea Cliff Inn when the cousins heard about Coffins past and present. A vigorous group, they were distinguished by their sense of humor and organizational ability. Mrs. Isabel Worth Duffy of Nantucket was chairman of the reunion, the second in the family's history. The first was held in 1881 and Coffin cousins were in accord that they shouldn't wait 78 years for the next.

NANTUCKET TOWN CRIER

Tenth Generation Coffin Has Portfolio Listing Many Members Of Famous Family

The brown leather portfolio looked ordinary and innocent of glamor, sitting on the dresser top in a room in the Roberts House. The room's occupant looked like a retired headmaster. Who would have thought that from the briefcase its owner could summon forth whaleship sea captains, Barbary Coast pirates, the Lord Mayor of London, a canonized saint and Vikings invading the coast of England in the fifth century?

These historical personages were conjured up by scholarly-looking Charles Louis Coffin, a tenth generation descendant of Tristram Coffin, one of the original proprietors of Nantucket Island, and a 50th generation descendant of a Viking invader.

Mr. Coffin came to the Island for an overnight visit to further a project which has engaged nearly all his waking time since his retirement four years ago as vice president in charge of foreign sales of the United States Playing Card Co.

Seeking additional information for the public record of the Coffin family descendants which he is compiling, Mr. Coffin has enlisted the aid of the committee making plans for the Coffin family reunion, to be held here next Summer.

At the time of the last Coffin family reunion in 1882, a volume the size of a large unabridged dictionary was compiled, listing the families descending from Tristram Coffin. A letter press copy was given to Louis Coffin's grandfather and handed down in the family. This copy is one of the treasures in the briefcase.

This copy Mr. Coffin has compared with the original and filled in additions in pencil, a marked difference from the brown ink of the letter press copy. From the list of 1100 families in that volume, Mr. Coffin has compiled a list of 505 active survivors in 1882-83.

"By active survivors," Mr. Coffin said, "I mean any man likely to carry on the family name. It is my hope and intention to bring the list up to date to 1959. Of course there are some we can't trace but we will be sending out cards with every invitation sent out to join the Coffin family reunion and expect to get good returns."

A small card index file system keeps track of all the 505 male descendants, and this, too, reposes in the portfolio.

"This card index itself was a titanic task," Mr. Coffin said and a quick examination of the contents proves his words. Green-edged cards record the descendants of Tristram Coffin's first son, Peter, through his son Jethro. A blue line on the corner edge indicates the second son's family, a red triangle corner is for the third son, James, the first probate judge on Nantucket. A black corner is on the cards for descendants of Lieutenant John, the fourth son, who left the Island before the war of Independence. Stephen, the fifth son, has his family recorded on cards with orange corners.

On the back of each card, the genealogy back to Tristram Coffin is listed.

Not content to have the records from Tristram Coffin forward to 1959, Mr. Coffin has searched records in England and can now trace the genealogy back through Tristram Coffin's grandfather. Births were not recorded then but by judging from wills filed and reckoning a generation as 30 years, Mr. Coffin surmises that the family records originated in 1588 or nearly four hundred years ago.

From the portfolio, a treasure house of Coffin family records, Mr. Coffin drew out a photograph of an inlaid flooring in a church in Penkevil, on the estate of the Lord of Falmouth, in England. The church is about 40 miles by road from Plymouth, the port from which Tristram Coffin sailed in 1642.

The inlay is of a woman, hands folded in prayer. Under the picture is this inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of Marie the widow of Peter Coffin Gent and 4th daughter of Hugh Boscawen of Tregothnan, Esq. who dyed ye 4th day of September 1662 aged 71 years."

She is believed to be Tristram Coffin's grandmother.

Called by his chronicler "The Noah of the Coffins" Tristram Coffin was born in 1609 so that the reunion next year will celebrate the 350 anniversary of his birth.

Compiling the family genealogy has been Mr. Coffin's primary hobby since his retirement, but his interest was keen long before then. In 1941 he made his first visit to the Island to search archives in the Historical Association Library and has made two brief visits since for research and to renew his running conversation with Dr. Will Gardner.

A copy of a list Mr. Coffin compiled of 90 Nantucketers lost at sea was sent to Dr. Gardner to file in the historical library here. The ports where Nantucket seamen lost their lives sound romantic but the causes of death do not.

Several Coffin seamen were killed by whales. Zacheus died among the Turks, in 1787. Timothy died from a fall from the masthead of the ship Rose in Canton. George was murdered in 1819 in Batavia and James Dudley drowned in Boston Harbor in 1843.

Three Coffins are among the many Quakers who refused to be put into press gangs on British man of wars when their whaleships were captured by the British. Josiah, Elijah, and Abel died in prison ships during the War of Independence.

This record of Nantucket's sons was gleaned by searching the reunion volume, and making a separate file of the seafaring men lost at sea.

From the portfolio comes a thicker list, that of 104 sea captains of the Coffin family from 1609 to 1681.

This separate file was compiled by painstaking search of the records at the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in New Bedford. There in the Directory of Whaling Masters, Mr. Coffin found the entries that he has grouped together to add to the growing history of the Coffin family.

Among the Coffin sea captains were Jonathan, voyaging in 1796 to bring a statuette of the Dauphin from France, Seth, directing the amputation of his own leg by the mate, and Reuben, sailing in 1862 in a sea going tug named the Seth Low. The Seth Low is credited with towing the Monitor to Hampton Roads from New York in heavy seas and fog over protests of its officers just in time to engage the Merrimac and save the Union Fleet.

One of the favorite tales of the Coffin ancestors revolves around a Quaker doctor aboard Captain Stephen Decatur's ship fighting the Tripoli pirates in the southern waters of the Mediterranean Sea. A robust and powerful man, the doctor was torn between his conscientious objections to violence and the need to help save the ship. The battle was going against Decatur's men, after it had been boarded by the Barbary Coast pirates. The doctor helped save the day, without taking up arms. Picking up the pirates one by one, he said, "I hope thee can swim", and dumped them overboard.

There are these occasional amusing anecdotes found in the family records, but most of the work of compiling a document with such monumental findings is in searching records and archives.

"Only yesterday, I spent four hours in the New York Public Library," Mr. Coffin said, "investigating all the telephone directories in towns and cities where the 505 card indexed Coffins lived. I listed all the Coffins I found, and gave their names and addresses to Clark Coffin. He will mail invitations to all of them and send them one of my genealogical record cards."

"It will take years to compile all the records," Mr. Coffin said, "But I expect to get a good start on it from the information collected at next year's family reunion. On my death, I hope to leave these records to the Nantucket Historical Association."

A tenth generation descendant from Tristram Coffin himself, Mr. Coffin has good reason to believe that the Coffin family will continue even though he has no children.

Not all the books and papers in the portfolio deal with the Coffins, although there is a direct Coffin connection to every document. One slim, red book is a volume of the Gayer family of England.

The Gayer family lines and the Coffins were tied when Damaris Gayer married Nathaniel Coffin, the son of James, the third son of Tristram. Through the Gayer family line, Louis Coffin traces his antecedents to the Vikings, and is the 50th generation descendant from a Viking invader, the oldest recorded ancestor in direct line that history books and archives reveal.

On his many business trips abroad, Mr. Coffin has managed to include some pleasure. That means burrowing through tons of ancient scripts to find proof of relationship by wills filed. Births were not recorded in early times, but wills were filed, and their contents provided him with clues.

In the Gayer family tree are listed English kings, a wife of a king later canonized as a saint, a lord mayor of London, and a district governor of Bombay.

Countless hours of time and immeasurable effort are closeted with the records in Mr. Coffin's portfolio. These will be left to posterity by this quiet man. Few would guess that he is a walking genealogical library, and that the briefcase he carries holds one family history that goes back 400 years and another that bridges the gap in time with the Vikings 1500 years ago.

Dec. 19, 1957

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(Continued on Page 9)

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The committee included Mrs. Isabel Worth Duffy, chairman; Charles C. Coffin; Alcon Chadwick, treasurer; Richard M. Everett, historic Coffin houses; Richard F. Coffin and Jane T. Lamb, Coffin School activities; Richard M. Coffin and H. Errol Coffin, commemorative booklet; Priscilla Coffin Baxter, Patricia Coffin, Mildred Coffin Edgarton and Florence Worth, publicity; and Dexter D. Coffin, Ralston H. Coffin and Vincent B. Coffin, reunion dinner.

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Sending greetings in a telegram was Lieutenant Colonel E. C. Pine-Coffin of Portledge, Devon, England.

Seated at the head table were Dr. William E. Gardner who gave the invocation, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent B. Coffin of Hartford, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clark Coffin of Nantucket, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Jones of Nantucket, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Edgarton of Syracuse, N. Y., Mr. and Mrs. James Duffy of Nantucket, Mr. and Mrs. Dexter D. Coffin of Windsor Locks, Miss Patricia Coffin, Mr. and Mrs. Ralston H. Coffin, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Caldwell of Nantucket. Mr. Caldwell is chairman of the 300th birthday family reunions.

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July 10, 1959



Young Tristram Coffin and Raymond "Pop" Coffin pose for picture taken on Main Street. Look Magazine Special Features Editor Patricia Coffin supervised similar photographing for the special New England family reunion feature which is expected to be published in a fall issue.

July 17, 1959



Tris asks Grace B. Gardner, oldest Coffin descendant there, her age (94). The Coffins and Gardners once used to feud.





Youngest "cousin" was Glen Richard, whose grandmother is a Nantucket Coffin. Ninety-four Island Coffins attended reunion.

LOOK MAGAZINE

Boy meets 416 cousins

Tristram Coffin, aged eight, attends a huge New England family reunion in Nantucket

When Professor David Coffin of Princeton (smoking pipe, upper left) was invited to Nantucket to attend the first Coffin family reunion since 1881, he decided he would take his son and daughters and go. His son is named Tristram after the Coffin who came to America from England in 1642 to escape persecution and, with eight others, bought the 14-mile-long island of Nantucket just 300 years ago. Old Tristram was the progenitor of 75 grandchildren and seven generations of whalers. At the reunion, young Tris met 416 relatives of all ages and occupations, including one Coffin who owns a cemetery. They came from as far away as Oregon, Nebraska, California, Maine, Michigan, Kansas, Texas and Nova Scotia.

Family history gets boring, but there are compensations: a banquet, new friends

Tris tagged along inspecting ancestral homes, meeting an almost endless number of relatives. Said one, Tristram Coffin Colket II of Wyoming, "There are very few Coffins I am ashamed of, and very few I am proud of." Actually, the Coffin clan represents a cross section of America: a university chancellor, a paper millionaire, an RCA vice-president, a congressman, writers, actors, bankers, lawyers, architects and teachers, including Mrs. Isabel Worth Duffy, who ran the reunion.



With sister, he inspects fruit cups for family dinner at Sea Cliff Inn. "Never been anything as big here," said the manager.



Six bored Coffins: Tris, right; sister Lois, 7, and 15-year-old "Cousin" Tristram Coffin Gaillard wait for grown-ups under 1845 portrait of Seabury, Marianna and Jared Coffin, children of Benjamin, in whose house the picture still hangs.

continued

Look Magazine
Aug. 18, 1959

Notice to Coffin Descendants

Dear Tristram Coffin Descendant:

In checking our files this week, we discover that, in reply to our "Attention All Descendants of Tristram Coffin" letter, you filled out the questionnaire saying you and your family expected to attend the reunion on Nantucket July 7, 8, 9, 1959. However, we find that you have not sent in your registration fee and made final reservations as our "Last Call" letter requested.

As it is possible we have made a mistake or the matter has slipped your mind, we are sending you this reminder. Or, if you have had difficulty in making housing arrangements can we help you?

All our printing material goes to press this week, and our dinner arrangements with the hotel are final May 30. If you still plan to attend, will you please complete the registration form immediately? We are very anxious to include all eligible Coffins who wish to attend the reunion, and we shall be very sorry to have to disappoint any, but we cannot guarantee any part of the program to anyone who has not make advance registration.

Only "registered Coffins" will be able to take part in all or any of the reunion activities. To become a "registered Coffin" one must fill out the registration form and pay the registration fee (or fees if more than one in a family is registering). Receipt for the registration fee (or fees) will be mailed to you and must be presented on registration day, July 7, at the Coffin School. It will entitle the registrant to an identification badge, which must be worn comspicuously during reunion days at all reunion activities: It will also entitle each registrant to reunion souvenirs, to reunion activities, and will entitle the registrant to purchase a reunion dinner ticket. Dinner tickets cannot be obtained by any other means.

Nantucket Coffins do not need a registration form. They may make their advance registration directly with the treasurer, Alcon Chadwick, at the Nantucket Institution for Savings.

Reunion plans are now nearing completion. The schedule of events is as follows:

Tuesday, July 7: Registration at the Coffin School, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open houses, 2:30-5:30 p.m. (Evening free.)

Wednesday, July 8: Meeting at the "Oldest House," 10 a.m. for tour of the house, afternoon free. Reunion dinner at Sea Cliff Inn, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 9: Morning free. Informal social hour at the Coffin School, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

July 17, 59



Photo by Haddon

A portion of the 415 members of the Coffin family, which held its second family reunion here two weeks ago. The group dwarfs the Oldest House, seen in the background, which was built in 1686 for Jethro Coffin and his bride, Mary Gardner.

Coffin Family Reunion Notes

Vincent Brown Coffin, descendant Tristram Coffin of Nantucket, was ıugurated Chancellor of the newly eated University of Hartford in an pressive and colorful ceremony at ıshnell Memorial Auditorium, Hartrd, Conn., on Tuesday, April 21, fore a large audience, 400 of whom, essed in academic robes, represented eir respective colleges and univerties. Mr. Coffiffin will be master of remonies at the Coffin Family Reıion dinner at the Sea Cliff Inn on antucket, July 8.

Attending the inauguratio cereıonies were Mrs. James Duffy, chairıan of the Coffin Family Reunion Committee, and Mr. Dexter Coffin, of C. H. Dexter & Sons, of Windsor Locks, Conn. Mr. Dexter Coffin will be one of the speakers at the reunion dinner.

Mrs. Duffy and Mr. Dexter Coffin flew down to the island last Friday, April 24, in Mr. Coffin's private plane for a meeting with the Nantucket members of the reunion committee.

Reunion plans are now nearing completion. Arrangements are being made by Mr. Richard Everett for the visiting Coffins to attend "open house" on Tuesday, July 7, at several homes of historic Coffin interest. On Wednesday morning, July 8, a group picture at the Oldest House is scheduled. On Wednesday evening the reunion dinner will be held, followed by a program dealing with significant activities of the Coffin family in the course of Nantucket history, human interest stories of Coffin activities in other parts of the world, and messages from preminent Coffins who cannot be present at the 1959 reunion. Festivities will close with an informal social hour Thursday afternoon.

Appropriate souvenirs, featuring the Coffin coat-of-arms, are being prepared by Errol Coffin of Nantucket and New York, Richard Coffin, of Hartford, Conn., and Dexter Coffin of Windsor Locks, Conn.

Mrs. Jane Lamb and Richard Coffin of the Nantucket committee are in charge of registration at the Coffin School, which will be headquarters for reunion information.

Charles Clark Coffin is chairman of the Nantucket committee.

To date, Alcon Chadwick, treasurer, has received about 350 registrations from both off-island and Nantucket Coffin descendants.

In view of the limited facilities of the island, final commitments for the number attending the dinner must be made with the manager of the Sea Cliff Inn by May 15. All Nantucket descendants of Tristram Coffin are urged to make reservations immediately with Alcon Chadwick, if they wish to be sure of attendance at the reunion dinner.

July 9, 1959

Coffin Family Concludes Reunion at Nantucket

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, July 11 — The successful Coffin family reunion came to an end Thursday with an afternoon tea held on the grounds of the Coffin School on Winter Street. Mrs. Charles Clark Coffin, wife of the town clerk, presided over the affair.

The previous evening more than 380 members of the Coffin family from all parts of the country attended the reunion banquet at the Sea Cliff Inn. The invocation was offered by the Rev. Dr. William F. Gardner, retired clergyman and noted island historian. Young and old alike then enjoyed a roast turkey dinner.

The after-dinner program was directed by Vincent B. Coffin, chancellor of the University of Hartford, as master of ceremonies.

Town Clerk Opens Program

Town Clerk Coffin opened the program and extended a welcome to all attending the three-day reunion. Mr. Coffin was Nantucket chairman for the reunion arrangements.

George W. Jones, chairman of the 300th Birthday Steering Committee, offered the greetings of the celebration committee and invited those who came from the mainland to return again in the future years.

Toastmaster Coffin introduced Mrs. Mildred Coffin Edgarton of Nantucket, former chairman of the oldest house committee of the Nantucket Historical Association, to relate the history of the house, known as the Jethro Coffin House, built in 1686.

Mrs. Edgarton told how the Historical Association hopes to restore the second floor to its original condition and that funds will be needed for this purpose.

Henry Coffin Carlisle, a committee member of the Whaling Museum, entertained the group with a reading of excerpts from a number of letters sent by whaling ship captains to the owners of their ships. Mr. Carlisle caused some laughter when he said that he was omitting some parts of the letters which he said were "too salty" to read. He said he had presented one of the letters to the Whaling Museum and was making copies of the others.

Tea Set Presented

A beautiful tea set bearing the Coffin coat-of-arms was presented to Mrs. Isabel Worth Duffy of Manchester, Conn., general chairman of the reunion, by the master of ceremonies on behalf of all the Coffins in attendance.

Mrs. Duffy thanked everyone for the gift and gave a history of the first Coffin family reunion which was held here in 1881 when 500 decendants of Tristram Coffin met to commemorate the 200th anniversary of their common ancestor's death.

Dexter D. Coffin of Windsor Locks, Conn., spoke on "Stories of Our Ancestors" in which he told of the founding of the family line at the family estate of Portledge, Devon, England, and that the English family name is now Pine-Coffin.

A rare gift of the original, authentic cane used by the first Tristram Coffin was made to the Nantucket Historical Association. The cane was sent by Miss Helen Coffin of Hartford, Conn., who was unable to be present, and was accepted on behalf of the association by Mrs. Jones, the association president.

First Chief Magistrate

Tristram Coffin was the first chief magistrate of the island and the cane was symbolic of his high office. It is a beautiful antique and has a whale's tooth head. Miss Coffin informed the committee in charge of the reunion that the cane had been handed down through the male line of her family and the last to own it was her brother who directed that it be given to the Historical Association, before he died.

Other speakers were Miss Patricia Coffin, editor of the Special Department, Look Magazine, and Ralston H. Coffin, vice-president of RCA, of Camden, N. J.

A poem about Nantucket, written by Richard F. Coffin, was read to the assembly by Mrs. Jane Lamb, a member of the Nantucket School Committee.

The after-dinner events came to a conclusion with a toast to the memory of Tristram Coffin and his wife, Dionis.

Most of the Coffins who came from afar departed yesterday for their homes with pleasant memories of a wonderful time. Many expressed the wish that the reunions would become a regular affair every five or 10 years. As one visitor expressed it, "Do we have to wait 78 more years for the next reunion?"

July 11, 1959

Granddaughter, Like Grandfather Planning For Second Reunion Of Coffin Clan In 1959

Mrs. James Duffy is following in her grandfather's footsteps, in organizing the second reunion of the descendants of Tristram Coffin, one of the original settlers of the Island, to be held July 7, 8, and 9, 1959, in conjunction with the observance of the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the first white settlers here.

The first reunion of the Coffin family was arranged by Mrs. Duffy's grandfather, Attorney Allen Coffin, who gathered the family together in 1881 on the 200th anniversary of Tristram Coffin's death. Mrs. Duffy is a teacher of English at Manchester (Conn.) High School and the former Isobel Worth of Nantucket.

The reunion committee has obtained the Coffin School through the courtesy of William Coffin, president and its Board of Trustees to be used as headquarters for registration and information. The school was founded in 1827 by British Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin for the benefit of descendants of his great-grandfather, Tristram Coffin. The present building was erected in 1852 on Winter Street.

Richard Coffin, physical education teacher and athletic coach of Nantucket High School, is in charge of events to be held at the Coffin School. Mrs. James Lamb, a member of the Nantucket School Committee, is assisting him.

Completion of the now tentative plans for the reunion depend upon the number of descendants who will attend. The committee will seek that information in a letter to be sent to all invited after Labor Day and to be answered by October 1.

Members of the reunion committee include C. Clark Coffin, clerk of the town of Nantucket; H. Errol Coffin, architect with the firm of Coffin and Coffin of New York City; Richard M. Everett, retired associate with Pacific Mills; and Alcon Chadwick, president of the Nantucket Institution of Savings.



Correction

In the last of Coffins printed last week the youngest "Coffin" was Glen Richard and the oldest was Miss Grace Brown Gardner.

These names appeared with "Coffin" at the end of each and we apologize for the inaccuracy, caused by an error in transcribing from the registration list.

July 1959

"Coffin Story" in Look Magazine

The long-awaited Coffin reunion story, compiled by Pat Coffin, is now on the newsstands in the September 1 issue of Look magazine. "Boy Meets 416 Cousins" is the title of the five-page picture story which features a two-page group picture of the descendents of Tristram Coffin in front of the Jethro Coffin house.

The article begins with a picture at the Princton, N. J., station where young Tristram, around whom the story is centered, is shown with his father, Professor David Coffin, and sisters, at the start of their trip to Nantucket. Taking part in the reunion, the eight-year-old is seen getting his name tag, his "ticket" for all reunion events, on Main Street with "Pop" Coffin, 79, from Springfield, and enjoying the excitement of being on a cousin's yacht. Photographer is James Hansen.

Inspecting the Zenas Coffin house, visiting with 94-year-old Grace Brown Gardner, oldest Coffin descendent at the gathering, and surveying the banquest tables before the big reunion dinner at the Sea Cliff Inn are several other aspects in which young Tristram is pictured.

"Six Bored Coffin" begins the caption under a picture of "Tris," his seven-year-old sister, Lois, and "cousin" Tristram Coffin Gaillard, 15, as the three wait beneath an 1845 portrait of Seabury, Marianna, and Jared Coffin, which still hangs in the house of their father, Benjamin. More at home on the beach and crabbing, Tris is also shown romping at the Children's Beach, and trying his luck with a crabbing line and net from the first bridge on the Madaket Road.

Pat Coffin brings out that Coffins came from such long distances as Oregon, Nebraska, California, Maine, Michigan, Texas, and Nova Scotia to meet their relatives. Actors, bankers, lawyers, architects, and teachers were only a few of the numerous occupations represented by family members.

Even a total of 100,000 descendents has not affected the completeness of the Coffin genealogical record, according to the author. Young Tristram will surely realize the importance of the family gathering in later years. However, through his eyes, readers are given a good idea of the significance of a typical New England family reunion.

Aug. 28, 1959

Tristram and the Ferry

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

One of our ancestors, Robert Carr, had a ferry on Carr Islands, Newburyport, Mass. In 1643, Tristram Coffin came from England and attempted to also establish a ferry on Carr Islannd. There was a legal battle in which Carr won and, in disgust, Tristram Coffin went to Nantucket Island, where he became a very prominent citizen.

In the genealogical room of the 42nd Street Library, New York City, there are two books about Robert Carr. One is by Edson Carr. In it, Edson Carr says Robert Carr came over in the "Mayflower." Although a son of Sir William Carr of London, he must have come in the crew, as he did not sign the Compact.

The other book is by Howland Crapso, called "Certain Come Overs." Crapso says Robert Carr did not appear in America until 1633 in Ipswich, Mass.

The reason my sister is so extremely interested in Coffins of Nantucket is she owns a very beautiful desk. There is a brass plate on it on which the names of three Coffin men are printed; the earliest is Charles Coffin, 1829.

There are many valuable and ancient papers in the desk, which were in it when she bought it for 200 or 300 dollars in about 1935. One section of a paper states one of the young editors is Eliza D. Gardner.

Since obtaining the desk, she has spent much on it so it is now in perfect condition. For instance, the many little hand-made cubbyholes were all apart, when she purchased it and now are fully repaired. She thinks you will be interested in hearing about the desk.

The young man who restored it, discovered it was hand made by a Folger in 1828.

Olive C. Duncan
Rockville Centre, L. I.

"The Story of Tuckernuck"

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

Thank you very much for "The Story of Tuckernuck." I found it most interesting. Are Miss Thelma and her brother the only survivors of such a large family? Interesting picture opporite page 23; could that be Miss Thelma?

Apparently the Folger clan stayed in Nantucket.

Sorry I am unable to get down this season. Your celebration sounds "tops." All best wishes.

Sincerely,
Mrs. W. Stuart Morrell
Brookline, Mass.

[NOTE: There are a good many Coffins of both Tuckernuck and Nantucket descent living today. The picture in question is of Mrs. Sydney Coffin battling the recent fire on Tuckernuck.—Ed.]

Aug. 21, 1959

Apropos of the Coffin Reunion

In honoring Nantucket Island Town,
The old, familiar name of Coffin rose
To greet the visitors with far renown,
Recalling sons and daughter, too, of those
Who there went out with universal sails
To thrive upon the oceanic whales.

The tide was full; again the non-time shone;
The laden ships had crossed the channel bar
And rolled upon the wharves the oil and bone
For masters of the things that make or mar;
Who cleared tomorrow's dawning hopes and fears,
And ruled their island kingdom two hundred years.

They faced the great Atlantic turmoiled surf
Where green New England reared its pine and oak,
Yet build their empire town on island turf,
With wisdom binding strength with freedom's stroke.
Here in the mottled shadows of elm-tree shade
Still stands the best our forefathers made.

Though prosperous grew the island town,
And gathered rich rewards in world exchange,
There came improving ways to let them down
Aboard the idle ships to suffer change.
The whipping lash of fate around them curled
And snuffed out the whale-lights around the world.

The violence and calm of whaling ships
We saw on loitering tours these days,
Reviving images in our fellowships
While passing through the old Museum maze.
Who knows how many to the harbor ran
From out the stormy deep since they began?

While strolling down the cobbled street to see
The frequent sign of some yet older day,
We sensed the courage of their quality
That kept them patient on their sailing way.
Such inner power glowed in social grace
And founded here this quiet, friendly place.

Here we, in our rejoining family ties,
Now hold communion with those primal days,
Whose rich existence stored with light still lies
Upon their homes and livelihood always;
We merge the new and older potent source
To run with joy our firm and rugged course.

George Henry Coffin
Westminster West, Vt.

Oct. 16, 1959

Shelburne County Family Traces History

From the Halifax Chronicle-Herald

Thoughts of Kenneth Coffin, Sr., of Coffinscroft in Shelbourne County (Nova Scotia) were unquestionably centered on Massachuetts' Nantucket Island recently. There several hundred members of the family associated with that surname — once spelled "Coffyn" were gathered in a mammoth reunion. It had been a dream long held by Mr. Coffin that he would be present at the event and enjoy its many features. However, health consideration prompted him to decide against the long trip and the attendant excitement of such a gathering.

He was represented by a daughter, Mrs. W. T. Dauphinee, of Halifax, as well as a few others who had their roots in Nova Scotia. Among the prized possessions of the well known Shelburne County man is a crest-bearing cup which was a souvenir issued at the time of the former Coffin family reunion held at Nantucket in 1881 over three-quarters of a century ago. It was brought back to the Barrington District, within which Coffinscroft is situated, by his two half-brothers, Edgar and Frederick, who attended.

Mr. Coffin and his wife reside in the attractively situated homestead which has been there probably for a century and a half. "It was much larger at one time but it has been built over in the intervening years," Mr. Coffin commented. The name of Coffinscroft for the section was bestowed in 1889 when a post office was established for benefit of families living in the neighborhood.

Up until a few years ago the post office was operated within this staunch old house. Now it is a little way up the road but still linked with the family for the postmaster is Kenneth Coffin, Jr. At one time several families of that name were residents of the area. Now there are only the two Kenneths.

Like those at the Nantucket reunion, Mr. Coffin is a descendant of the Tristram Coffin who was born in England in 1605 and died in Nantucket in 1681. A descendant, John Coffin, born in Nantucket in 1727, was among a quartet of grantees in the Barrington area. The Coffin homestead gives evidence of pride in the family background. In a place of prominence is an oil portrait of the late Honorable Thomas Coffin who is well remembered in Barrington as a master mariner, shipbuilder, and parliamentarian, father of Kenneth, and also Miss Esther Coffin, of Boston, who was among those attending the reunion. Others in attendance linked with Nova Scotia were Mrs. Dauphinee's daughter, Diane, and two former Haligonians, George, of Moncton, and Hector D., of Portland, Ore., grandsons of Thomas. Before entering the Federal field, Thomas, for a number of years, represented Shelburne in the Nova Scotia Legislature. At one time he was Canada's receiver-general.

Oct 16, 1959

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Aug. 28, 1959

Nantucket Folger Reunion Honors Famous Ancestors



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

FOLGER FAMILY HAS ISLAND REUNION—An informal social hour at the home of Dr. and Mrs. George A. Folger on India Street on Nantucket concluded the three-day Folger family reunion, which attracted Folgers from all over the country. Left to right are Franklin Folger Webster of Nantucket, treasurer of the reunion committee; Mrs. Dorothy Folger Rowley of Richmond, Va., chairman of the affair; Mrs. George A. Folger, hostess at the social hour, and Mrs. Franklin Webster, who presided at the refreshment table.

110 *Descendants Hear Speakers On Island Forbear Peter Folger At 3-Day Reunion*

NANTUCKET, Aug. 29—One o the most successful of the many family reunions being held here in connection with Nantucket's 300th birthday celebration was held this week by the Folger family.

The feature events were the dedication of the Folger-Franklin Seat and Memorial Boulder, Thursday morning and the reunion dinner that evening at the Sea Cliff Inn, which was attended by an estimated 120 persons.

Franklin Folger Webster, Nantucket chairman and treasurer of the reunion committee, in a dedication speech paid honor and tribute to three great representatives of the Folger family line. He said, "We are here to do honor to and to commemorate three personalities whose impact on the history of the world is beyond estimation, the early settler, Peter Folger; his daughter, Abiah Folger; and her son, Benjamin Franklin.

"We cannot imagine the conditions under which we might be living today had it not been for these three personalities.

One of First to Protest

"In 1630 a man was sentenced to be whipped, have his ears cut off, and fined and banished for uttering malicious and scandalous speech against the Government. Peter Folger was one of the first to protest against such denial of Christian tolerance.

"In 1677 Peter went to New York to see the English governor in an attempt to secure more democratic rights for Nantucket. Just about 100 years later his grandson, Benjamin Franklin, went to England and pleaded before Parliament for a more democratic attitude towards the Colonies."

Mr. Webster then cited Abiah Folger, who was born in the old farmhouse long since gone, but located near the Memorial Boulder. He told of her marrying Josiah Franklin, a widower with seven children and by whom she had 10 of her own. Her father was Peter Folger, a surveyor and power of good in the island community, and her youngest son was Benjamin Franklin, printer, inventor and statesman, a most illustrious American.

After giving credit for the development of the memorial plan to Dr. William Gardner, island author and historian, and Thomas J. Hallowell, who gave the site of the old Folger farm just off the Madaket Road to the Nantucket Historical Association, Mr. Webster called on the Rev. Harry Paine Folger 2d, of Winthrop, to give a prayer and conduct the religious portion of the program.

Boulder, Seat Dedicated

In dedicating the boulder and seat, Mr. Folger said, "It is fitting then that we dedicate not only this boulder and this seat, but ourselves, that the ideals in human relations which they fostered—Peter so simply here in this little hamlet; Abiah so obscurely in Josiah Franklin's home, and Benjamin, so brilliantly on the world's vast stage, but each of them so triumphantly in their own place—may endure forever."

The night before members of the Folger clan gathered at the Unitarian Church on Orange Street, where they were guests at a showing of motion pictures by Mrs. Ruth Ley. Mrs. Ley lectured on "Nantucket, Island of the Whalers", and showed her interesting film of the island.

Thursday evening the dining hall at the Sea Cliff Inn was filled as the Folgers held their reunion dinner.

Mr. Webster was master of ceremonies and also spoke on "Highlights and Oddities of Nantucket History."

Mrs. Dorothy Rowley Folger, of Richmond, Va., head chairman of the reunion committee, was called on for a few remarks and was given a rising vote of thanks by the audience in appreciation of her efforts in making the reunion a success. Mr. Webster, who has also contributed a great deal of time to the planning and carrying out of the program was also honored by the large group in attendance.

Other Speakers

Joseph Butler Folger Jr., professor of romance languages at Dartmouth College, entertained with a number of amusing anecdotes about the island and its old-time inhabitants. The Rev. Harry Paine Folger 2d gave the invocation and benediction at the dinner and at the conclusion of the dinner was called on to speak by Mr. Webster. He took as his subject, "An Off-Islander Looks at Nantucket and the Reunion."

Mr. Webster read a number of congratulatory letters he and the committee had received. Among them were messages from John Clifford Folger, U. S. Ambassador to Belgium; Mrs. Florence Bennett Anderson, of Walla Walla, Wash., a noted author, who has written many books about the island and its folk; the management of the Folger-Shakespeare Library in Washington, D. C., and from Franklin Folger, nationally-known cartoonist. Mrs. Harry Armstrong, the former Ardell Folger, of Sacramento, Cal., showed the gathering a family heirloom in the form of a medallion which portrayed Benjamin Franklin's likeness. Mrs. Armstrong related the details of how it came down the family line from Captain Timothy Folger, a sea captain, and cousin of Benjamin Franklin.

The rugged virtues of Peter Folger, Nantucket settler and grandfather of Benjamin Franklin, were soundly praised by a series of speakers during the Folger three day reunion. His 110 descendants, here for their first Folger family gathering, became well acquainted with their distinguished ancestor, his even more illustrious grandson, and the woman who bridged the generations, Abiah Folger Franklin.

The homage to the trio was climaxed in a ceremony Thursday morning in the soft August sunlight when the Franklin Memorial Seat and Boulder cresting a rise in Rogers Field were dedicated.

In his dedicatory speech the Nantucket chairman of the reunion, Franklin Folger Webster, stressed the devotion of Peter Folger to liberty of conscience, individual freedom and separation of church and state.

The repository for his democratic ideals, said Mr. Webster, was his ninth child, Abiah, whose childhood was spent in the fields where the memorial stands. She passed on her father's beliefs to her son, Benjamin Franklin, said Mr. Webster. Franklin, he continued, was never on Nantucket, but was "pure Folger in his love of learning, genius and easy flow of conversation."

While Mr. Webster spoke the young lads bearing the name of Peter Folger sat before him on the oak bench carved with the names of their ancestor, his wife Mary Morrills and their nine children, and behind Mr. Webster stood Thomas J. Hallowell Jr. of Northport, N.Y., who gave the land, Dr. William E. Gardner, who conceived and executed the idea for the Memorial, President George Jones of the Nantucket Historical Association, and the Reverend Harry Paine Folger II of Winthrop, who followed Mr. Webster's speech with the consecration prayer.

The Methodist minister asked for a rededication of the present generation to the ideals of the early settlers, calling the Memorial a symbol of the humble origin, and hardy virtues of Nantucket's early settlers. As he read a litany describing the purposes of the consecration, the audience gave the response, "We dedicate this Memorial."

Dr. Gardner spoke briefly asking for 100 original donors to meet the expenses of the Boulder and Seat. They do not stand on the site of Peter Folger's house, he said, which was somewhere down in the valley, as he pointed southwards. An expert will attempt to establish the exact location, Dr. Gardner said.

The Folgers began their reunion with registration at the Gordon Folger Hotel and a tour of open houses, the Misses Monaghan at 8 Howard Street; Mrs. Louise E. Glass at 153 Main, which is the Folger homestead; the birthplace of Maria Mitchell, an illustrious descendant of Peter Folger; the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Webster at 112 and Wallace Hall at 72 Main Street.

In the evening they watched Mrs. Ruth Ley's movie, Nantucket Island of the Whalers, at the Unitarian Church.

The next night the 110 cousins held their family dinner at the Sea Cliff Inn, presided over by Mr. Webster, who was seated at the head table with the reunion committee members, chairman Dorothy Folger Rowley of Richmond, Va., Gordon Folger, Professor Joseph Butler Folger of Dartmouth College, Mrs. Katherine Coe Folger and the Rev. Harry Paine Folger.

In a soft Virginian accent, Mrs. Rowley, who is an accountant, described how she became reunion chairman after hearing on a radio that a "whaling village" was having its 300th anniversary.

Mr. Webster sketched the Island and family past in an address, Highlights and Oddities of Nantucket History, that was both factual and anecdotal, and made out a strong case for the independence of the Folgers.

Repeating the well-known doggerel on Nantucket families, Mr. Webster allowed that the adjective "lazy" in the line "the Folgers are knowing, lazy" could mean instead that they were most efficient in dispatching their work. The family produced a flood tide of teachers, Mr. Webster said, famous for their quality and quantity.

OVCT

Aug. 30, 1959, N.B.

Professor Folger, who asked for information and questions from family members on the genealogy he is compiling, related tales of his Nantucket boyhood when he walked barefoot the cobblestoned streets and tended farm chores.

"It disturbs me," said the Rev. Harry Paine Folger in his speech, An Off-Islander Looks at the Reunion, "that we might get the idea that Abiah Folger was a wonderful woman because she was born on Nantucket," reared 17 children and worked hard. "She was a great woman because at least one of her children became a great man," the minister continued in stressing the spiritual values handed from one generation to the next.

Devotion to noble ideals is the source and objective of great families, rather than accident of birth, the minister said, as he pleaded for a re-dedication of this generation in the age of space travel. Mr. Folger also emphasized the oneness of men as all children of God.

The invocation and benediction at the dinner were also given by Mr. Folger.

Displayed on the dinner table was a Sevres porcelain medallion of Franklin, given by him to Captain Timothy Folger, who charted the Gulf Stream, and the property of Mrs. Harry A. Armstrong of Sacramento, Calif. Dr. Leonard Wood Labaree, editor of the Franklin papers, contributed background information on the medallion, and also asked for letters to add to the collection of 20,000 written either to or by Benjamin Franklin.

Colonel Laurence Bunker of Wellesley Hills, speaking from the floor, called the audience's attention to a genealogical article in the next issue of Historic Nanucket which will show that the Folgers are cousins of former Harvard president A. Lawrence Lowell and distant cousins of George Washington.

Up briefly for discussion was the question whether there was a family coat of arms, with pros and cons offered, but the ultimate answer to the question was inconclusive.

The matter of their Quaker heritage was also gone into by Mrs. Donnell Boardman of Acton, Mass., who asked whether any of those present were still members of the Society of Friends. Mrs. Boardman and her family were apparently the only Quakers attending.

The descendants of Peter Folger's son, Eleazar, dominated the gathering. There were 40 of them present, including Harry, Gordon and Joseph Folger at the head table. Descendants of the other Folger children were either scattered or non-existent at the dinner. Dr. Isabell V. Kendig of Ashton, Md., who has her doctorate in psychology and is a teacher of mental hygiene, was the sole descendant of Benjamin Franklin present.

Ten members of the Cleaveland family from Stony Brook, N.Y., were the largest family attending, and honors for furthest distance were tied among three groups of California cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong from Sacramento, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Day of Pasadena, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Crane of Altadena. The Peter Folgers present numbered four, the son of the Prieth Benedicts of Summit, N.J., the son of the Donnell Boardmans of Acton, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Folger of Wellesley, and the son of Mrs. Nancy Folger Hammond of Marblehead.

Greetings were read from the United States Ambassador to Belgium, John Clifford Folger; Florence Bennett Anderson of Walla Walla, Wash., author of A Grandfather of Benjamin Franklin; cartoonist Franklin Folger; the director of the Folger-Shakespeare Library in Washington which was the gift of Standard Oil President Henry Clay Folger Jr; and from the 300th birthday steering committee and the Nantucket Historical Association.

At the suggestion of Gordon Folger, who told the cousins they would all return to Nantucket because they had "sand in their shoes," the group gave a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Webster and Mrs. Rowley.

The reunion concluded with a social hour the next day at the home of Dr. and Mrs. George A. Folger on India Street. Earlier that day the family members had attended the Main Street Fete Auction at the Wallace House.

This was the fourth family reunion to be held during the 300th anniversary Summer. The Macy family met in June, 416 Coffin cousins in July, the smaller Bunker family gathering two weeks ago, and the Folgers. The Swains are slated to meet this weekend and the Husseys a week later.

Sept. 4, 1959

FOLGER COFFEE
at
RYDER'S

Three Folger brothers from Nantucket
were gold seekers in 1849.

"Jim" thought there was more money for him
in coffee for the miners than in "panning gold."

Today FOLGER Coffee is the favorite of the West.

Start each day
of the 300th Nantucket Celebration, with a cup.

The story of the three generations of "Jim" Folger's is in the Folger book; "The Clock That Talks," page 113, by Will Gardner.

Rev. Harry P. Folger Guest At Methodist Church

Guest preacher at the Centre Street Methodist Church on Sunday, July 5, was the Rev. Harry P. Folger, 2nd. Mr. Folger, who is pastor of The First Church of Winthrop, Methodist, in Winthrop, Mass., spoke on "Fission, Forefathers, and Faith."

In the sermon, Mr. Folger brought out that in the study of his ancestors he had uncovered many factors which influence his present way of life and thinking. He pointed to a middle-of-the-road position as the most plausible in following in the footsteps of our forefathers.

"A healthy interest in their personality and their way of life can contribute much to us. However, our world is a changing world and with it, a man's way of life and his religion must grow and develop. God is still leading us even as he led Peter Folger and others to Nantucket some 300 years ago. If this is our youth, we will be enabled to face the present with confidence, and future generations will look back to us with the same respect as we have for our Nantucket forefathers."

According to Rev. Bruce Koerner, Nantucket Methodst Church minister, Mr. Folger's sermon was well attended not only by a large number of ladies in traditional dress, but also by Folger descendants. Rev. Folger is an 11th generation descendant of one of Nantucket's original settlers, the eldest son of Peter Folger, who accompanied his father to America in 1635. In August, he will return to the island with his family for the Folger reunion.

July 10, 1959



Photo by Haddon

Those attending the recent Folger Family Reunion posed on the lawn of the Gordon Folger Hotel for this group picture.

Sept 11, 1959

Address at Folger-Franklin Dedication Ceremony

During the recent Folger Reunion, a most impressive dedication ceremony was held at the Seat and Boulder off Madaket Road, erected to commemorate the memory of Peter and Abiah Folger, and the latter's son, Benjamin Franklin. The principal address was delivered by Franklin Folger Webster, and was as follows:

* * * *

Today we are gathered here to do honor to and to commemorate three personalities whose impact on the history of the world is beyond estimation: The early settler, Peter Folger; his daughter, Abiah Folger, and her son, Benjamin Franklin. We cannot imagine the conditions under which we might be living today had it no been for these three personalities.

First we have Peter Folger, the founder of the Folger Family in America. I will not go into the details of his history, which you can easily read, but rather recall some of his beliefs, which in the narrow-minded days of our early colonial period were considered revolutionary, if not treasonable. These beliefs, and his actions in carrying them out, are basic to our freedoms today.

Consider the rigid puritanical restrictions of that day. Punishments by the court were severe. Men could be summoned into court and fined ten shillings for letting their hair grow too long. Fancy dress was discouraged; wearing gold or silver buttons or silk hoods or scarfs was cause for a fine. Loose words about the government, or irreverence toward the church was severely punished. In 1630 a man was sentenced to be whipped, have his ears cut off, fined and banished for uttering malicious and scandalous speech against the government.

Peter Folger was one of the first to protest against such denial of Christian tolerance. Perhaps his missionary work among the Nantucket Indians had given him a vision of freedom of beliefs and the separation of church and state, which is so fundamental to our daily living that we give no thought to its winning. Be that as it may, the resentment which Peter Folger felt about such a state of affairs finally found expression in a tract, written by him in 1676, in doggerel verse, entitled "A Looking Glass For The Times". This was a daring venture, only 46 short years after the man lost his ears, being addressed to the governors and speaking for liberty of conscience and in favor of those who had suffered religious persecution. Peter did not hesitate to speak right out when he wrote, in part:

The rulers in the country,
I do own them in the Lord.
And such as are for government,
with them I do accord.
But that which I intend hereby,
is that they would keep bound
And meddle not with God's worship
for which they have no ground.
And I do really believe
it's not your business
To meddle with the church of Christ
in matters more or less.
There's work enough to do besides
to judge in mine and thine
To succor poor and fatherless;
That is the work in fine.
And I do think that now you find
Enough of that to do
Much more at such a time as this
as there is war also.

You will recall that in all the other settlements in the colonies the church was established early in its history and played an important part in its development.

But in Nantucket, for some fifty years following the settlement there was no organized church here. Every man worshipped as he saw fit and without interference by the government. Here was the practical application of the separation of church and state. Government tended to its own business and worshippers met in each others' houses for their services. The advantages of this arrangement no doubt influenced and gave positive support to Peter Folger's ideas.

And so, here in Nantucket, on this very ground upon which you are now standing, Peter Folger's cry for religious freedom was made to the world.

Peter Folger had moved his family to Nantucket in 1663. There were his wife, Mary Morrils, and eight children — Joanna, Bethiah, Dorcas, Eleazer, Bathsheba, Patience, John and Experience. He established his home on this site. In 1667 his ninth child, Abiah, was born here. Their names are all inscribed on this seat before you.

Abiah's early years were spent around these hills and meadows. Here she played. Here she learned the nimble-handed, housewifely virtues of those pioneer times. These she would need when she became the wife of Josiah Franklin, a widower with seven children. With ten more of her own to come along her Nantucket training under Mary Morrils would serve her well in bringing up a family of seventeen children.

Abiah Folger was 22 when she was married to Josiah Franklin, and during these long years at her father's side she surely acquired a philosophy and independence of thought which reflected Peter's and which was to be transmitted to her son, Benjamin, with her own mature judgements added.

over

Conversation was an art in those days, and in many a long evening by the fireside Peter must have expounded to his youngest daughter his theories of life and democracy. These were so well learned that they were passed on and cropped up repeatedly in Benjamin Franklin's utterances and were reflected in his actions. Benjamin's acts and utterances were in many ways a counter part of what his grandfather did and thought. For example: In 1677 Peter went to New York to win from the British Governor a more democratic plan of government for Nantucket; a hundred years later his grandson went to England and pleaded before Parliament for a more democratic attitude towards the American Colonies.

In many civilizations, and in many localities even today, a woman is of little or no consequence. But a woman born on Nantucket occupies a special place apart. Indeed, so do all women of Nantucket ancestry, as is so evident when we cast out our thoughts back through the years. The strong characters of the early settlers was transmitted undiluted to them and through them to their children and children's children. How else could Nantucket have carried on and prospered so well while all the men were off chasing whales? Who brought up, taught and disciplined the young? Who kept the homes intact and mannerly? Who rose to heights such as Maria Mitchell, Lucretia Mott, Phebe Ann Hanaford, Anna Gardner—all Folgers, by the way? Who but our women of good old Nantucket stock, with Peter's wife Mary Morrils, in the van?

So Abiah was important because she became the repository of Peter Folger's ideals and the channel for passing them on from father to grandson. Without her intelligent understanding, her character and her ability to teach her son, the course of world history could well have been changed.

And now we come to our third personality, Benjamin Franklin. He was not born on Nantucket, to his misfortune, and it cannot be proved that he ever visited this spot. His mother made frequent trips here to see her relatives, even in her old age. Nevertheless, Benjamin's traits were pure Folger of Nantucket. His inventive genius, love of learning and easy flow of conversation are so apparent in all that the records preserve of Peter Folger. To Nantucketers "Cousin" Benjamin was more of a Folger than a Franklin. For students of heredity it is interesting to learn that Benjamin was the youngest son of a youngest son back through four generations, and his mother was her parents' youngest child.

With these three personalities looking down upon us as we stand upon this spot of ground—and especially Peter from his final resting place on yonder hill—consider its physical aspects. It is not so much to look at—a rather barren, treeless area—and yet perhaps more than most other spots in this world, it has been the source of the ideas for the democratic way of life which we think of as the American way.

With this background I now quote from "Historic Nantucket" for October, 1958, which includes the report of the 64th Annual Meeting of the Nantucket Historical Association:

"The President (Mr. George Jones) then called upon 'one who is a member, has been an officer, and chairman of the Council, and above all has always had great interest in the Association; one everyone loves to hear speak, Dr. Will Gardner'.

"Dr. Will then spoke of the many times he had walked over the ground near the fountain on the Madaket Road and recalled how Peter Folger had loved the land for which he had the original grant. Peter Folger, you will recall, came here to teach the Indians before the white settlers arrived. Peter's youngest child was Abiah. She married Josiah Franklin who was a widower with seven children. Abiah Folger Franklin had ten children by Franklin and the youngest son, Benjamin, became the famous statesman, inventor, writer, and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Therefore it seemed appropriate that a seat, with shrubs and trees planted about, with a tablet marking the site of the house where Benjamin's mother was born be placed. It was for this reason that he had introduced Mr. Tom Hallowell and asked him, 'Who owns this land?'

"Mr. Hallowell responded by stating that he 'happened to be in the position of owning that particular tract of land' and would be very happy to turn over to Mr. Jones, President of the Association, a lease of the land. And should the Nantucket Historical Association later desire to own the land he would gladly give it in Dr. Gardner's name, since the idea for the appropriate use of the site was entirely his.

"Mr. Jones then spoke of the good fortune in having both Dr. Gardner and Mr. Hallowell as long-tibe friends of the Association, thanking them for the prospective material."

25,000 years ago a boulder was deposited on this island by the glacier.

It was destined to rest quietly in its bed for all those years until now. It is of a particularly hard granite, and so, because of its enduring qualities, was specially selected to become the setting-place here for a plaque on which these words are cast in lasting bronze:

This boulder stands upon the land that was part of the "grant" given by the first Nantucket Proprietors in 1663 to Peter Folger because of his more than ten years acquaintance with the Indians and with the land and coast of the Island.

Here he brought his wife and children, and near this spot built his home. He was an Englishman, a lover of liberty and one of our first fighters for tolerance and the rights of the individual to political and religious freedom.

Here on Nantucket he served as interpreter and teacher of Christianity to the Indians and utilized his proven skill as a Surveyor in laying out lands for the oncoming settlers.

On August 15, 1667 a daughter, Abiah was born to his wife, Mary (Morrils) Folger, who was to become the second wife of Josiah Franklin of Boston.

This land grew the wheat and meat that gave Abiah strength to nurture seven children from Josiah's first marriage and ten of her own.

Peter Folger 1617-1689; Abiah 1667-1752 married to Josiah Franklin; Josiah Franklin 1657-1745; Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790.

Descendants and admirers of Peter Folger have donated this memorial.

It is through the continued efforts of Dr. Gardner that this Folger-Franklin Seat and Memorial Boulder have become the reality that you now see before you. It is a tangible reminder of the great heritage we have on this Island of Nantucket.

Let us now dedicate this spot as a shrine for the weary to rest and to receive renewed strength and inspiration in their silent contemplation of the spirit it represents — freedom of thought and worship, and love of this land.

Sept. 11, 1959

OPEN HOUSES

Sponsored by Abiah Folger Franklin Chapter, D.A.R.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1959 2 - 5 P.M.

Admission $2.50 including tax

Single Admission $1.00

Tickets on sale at Miss Stevens Store
(If stormy this will be held the next day)

Miss Gladys Wood, 139 Main Street
Miss Hanna Monaghan, 8 Howard Street
Mrs. Donald Hardenbrook, 11 Mill Street
Mrs. Hal B. Armstrong, 17 Pleasant Street
Mr. Richard Neas, 25 Pleasant Street

(This ad is donated by the Albert G. Brock Company)

July 10, 1959

Each home is unique and has many interesting stories for the visitor.

The Monaghan home was originally David Folger's barn. Now finished for comfortable living and furnished with beautiful pieces from France, Italy and China, only the wide, rough hewn beams suggest its original purpose. A strikingly shallow though massive fireplace in the living-room provoked a bet between the builder and Miss Monaghan. He insisted that it was too shallow to draw; she was sure it would. To settle the argument, a man climbed up on the roof and dropped a lighted cigarette down the chimney. It fell, then turned and went up again, proving that the draft was perfect.

The home of Mrs. Louise Glass, 153 Main Street, is believed to date back to 1724. It was moved to its present site from Sherburne when the old harbor closed up. When Mrs. Glass bought it, the original sills which had been directly on the ground for more than two centuries were rotted beyond repair, and the house was raised four feet in order to place a solid foundation beneath. The wide floor boards and exposed beams are particularly interesting.

At the Maria Mitchell Memorial House, Miss Margery Weirich and Mrs. Alice Amey were ably assisted by a member of the Folger family's younger generation. Miss Elizabeth Amey who, despite her youth, did a very fine job of conducting people through the house and explaining points of interest in the typical old Quaker home.

In the living room of the Franklin Folger Webster home at 112 Main Main Street, seven generations were pictured on the wall, the newest being the Webster's grandchildren, and the oldest Mr. Webster's great great grandfather. Displayed in the same room were three whaling logs, one describing a near ship wreck, another telling of the mutiny of a boat's crew, and the third with colored drawings of whaling scenes.

Wallace Hall, presently owned by the Nantucket Historical Trust, is an example of the gracious living of the last century. Built in 1824 and unscathed by the great fire of 1846, it is a large and luxurious house. Many fine pieces of furniture were on display and available for sale including a tambour desk of mahogany with a bell flower inlay made by Reuben Folger about 1816. A mirror in the front parlor was part of the $500,000 cargo of the British ship "Queen" which was wrecked off Nobadeer with a prize crew aboard after being captured by the American privateer "Gen. Armstrong" in January, 1813. The builder purchased the mirror and copied the corner designs over the doors and windows of the house.

Pleasant skies and a sea breeze on Thursday morning made the occasion of the dedication of the Folger-Franklin Seat and Memorial Boulder one which will long be remembered by the many people who attended. The members of the DAR had turned out in their costumes with a resultant effect on the hillside which was most pleasing. From below on the Madaket Road, where the Abiah Folger Franklin Memorial tablet has stood since the days of horse-drawn vehicles, the gathering looked like a flower garden with the many colorful outfits clustered about the boulder and seat. After pictures of all "Peters" were taken, the actual speech of dedication was given by Franklin Folger Webster. He did such an admirable job that we must go to press with only a resume, promising the complete text in next week's issue, as everyone should have the privilege of the whole substance. Briefly, he honored the memory of three generations of the family beginning with the early settler, Peter Folger, whose desire for fairness and freedom set the tone of the island community; his daughter Abiah Folger born near the site of the memorial, who, at the age of 22 married Josiah Franklin, a widower with seven children and by whom she had ten of her own; and her youngest son, Benjamin Franklin, illustrious American of the first order of statesmanship, whose name is a byword to all Americans.

Giving much of the credit of the development of this idea of commemoration to Dr. Will Gardner and to Mr. James Hallowell, who gave the land for the purpose, Mr. Webster then introduced Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd, of Winthrop, who officiated at the religious dedication of the site. In having all of those present repeat the phrase, "We dedicate this memorial", after several paragraphs of moment, Mr. Folger was able to bring a true sense of consecration to the group. He cited that this simple boulder was a symbol of the humble origins of the forefathers, with their sense of fair play to the Indians, fostered by Peter Folger, their devotion to ideals of independence, and their willingness through the years to make sacrifices for the causes which they believed in. Dedicated not only to the past and the present generation, but to the perpetuity of the liberal adherence to the right as we see it, there was a true sense of humble reverence which made the Folgers feel themselves united, and the other people privileged to attend.

On Wednesday evening the pictures of Nantucket which were shown at the World's Fair in Brussels last year were presented to the Folger Reunion by Mrs. Ruth Ley after a few introductory remarks by Mr. Franklin Folger Webster. Entitled, "Nantucket, Island of the Whalers," this gave a good background to the gathered clan of Folgers.

Thursday evening at a delightful turkey dinner served at the Sea Cliff Inn the members of the Folger Reunion enjoyed an evening of fellowship and enlightenment. The invocation was asked by Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd., of Winthrop, Mass. The master of ceremonies was Mr. Franklin Folger Webster who introduced the chairman, Mrs. Dorothy Folger Rowley, of Richmond, Va., after which he gave some very interesting highlights and oddities of Nantucket history.

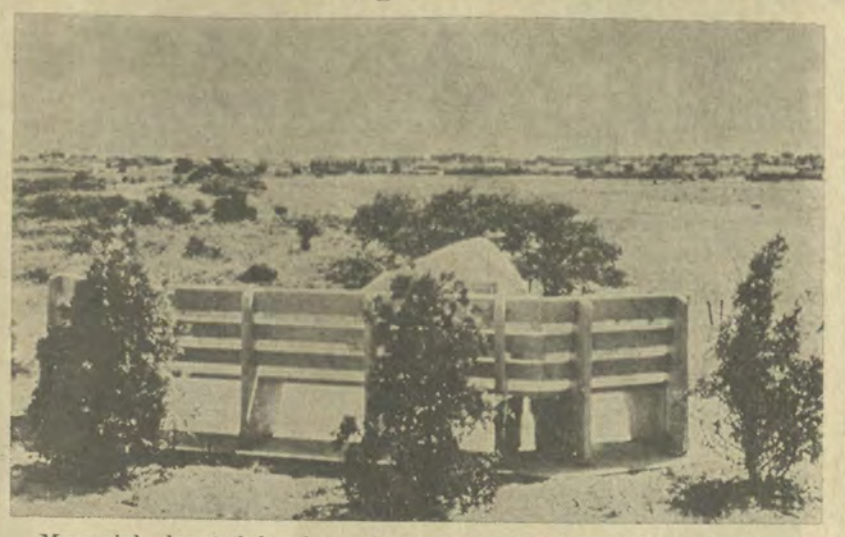
Needless to say, he eulogized the Folgers, especially the "faculized" ones.

Joseph Butler Folger, Jr., gave a few anecdotes followed by informal remarks from the floor by Dr. Leonard Labaree, editor of the papers of Benjamin Franklin at Yale, Mrs. Armstrong told of her Benjamin Franklin medallion, and Dr. Will Gardner took a bow. Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd, gave his opinion of the island, and as he spent his honeymoon here, this place has a rather divine attraction for him shared by many. Mr. Webster then closed with pleasant remarks concerning the gathering, wishing them a quick return to the home port of Nantucket. The benediction followed.

An informal social hour was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. George A. Folger to conclude the Folger family reunion.

July 1959

Peter Folger, Nantucket Pioneer And Indispensable Man



Memorial, donated by descendants and admirers of Peter Folger, situated on land given him by first Nantucket Proprietors in 1663.

By W. Ripley Nelson

Peter Folger! Who was he? Why is Nantucket erecting a permanent memorial this year to this man? Why was he never so recognized before? Three pertinent questions which will be asked by many of Nantucket's 300th birthday visitors — yes, and by Island residents too — so let us try to find the answers through a brief ramble in history.

Peter Folger, born in 1617 in England, was the son and only child of John Folger (then spelled ffoulger) and his first wife, Meribah Gibbs who died in England. In 1635 Peter came with his father from Norfolk, County of Newberry, England. Traveling on the same ship, the Abigail, was the Rev. Hugh Peters and his wife and an "indentured servant", Mary Morrills, as attendant for Mrs. Peters.

During the voyage of over a month young Peter and Mary naturally were forced into each other's company which proved romantically favorable. Courtship was hampered for Peter had to settle with his father first in Dedham and then in Watertown while Mary, indentured for 20 pounds, was required to go to Salem with the Rev. Peters and his wife.

In Watertown Peter Folger grew up to be, as described by Florence Bennett Anderson in "A Grandfather for Benjamin Franklin," "a worthy, knowledgeable young man, a bit of an oddity for being able to work at anything with head or hand, good at figures and tools and mechanical contraptions, solid too in Scriptural study to a surprising degree for a person in the meaner walk of life". Little wonder that ere long Peter was employed by Mr. Thomas Mayhew at the weir, as accountant and general overseer.

Growing up at the same time at Salem was John Gardner who at an early age discovered, unconsciously, that it was one thing to be a farmer and planter but much more was needed to build a thriving settlement in a new land. John, who at the age of 15 could earn many shillings surveying, had the ability to learn and did learn the practical ways of life which would help him to meet the unforseen responsibilities that lay ahead.

As Dr. William E. Gardner says in his book, "The Triumphant Captain John", "The meeting of Peter Folger and John Gardner was inevitable. Although Peter was older, a friendship began which lasted the remaining years of their lives. Peter had the motive, but John had the force". Their early friendship and training is important for their later lives in Nantucket show how close a link was forged between them and how they, after they moved to the island, supplemented each other in leadership of the Islanders.

After nine years of waiting, Peter Folger had saved the 20 pounds for buying Mary Morrills' indenture and in 1644 they were married. Peter and Mary promptly established their home on what is now Martha's Vineyard.

"And then suddenly," as Dr. Gardner says, "a great chapter in the lives of both Peter Folger and John Gardner unfolded as men and their families from Tristram Coffin's new settlement in the Merrimac Valley decided to buy Nantucket Island from Thomas Mayhew and establish an island colony." Mayhew at this time was nearing seventy and very dependent upon his "right hand man", Peter Folger, who therefore became the "middle man" in the negotiations for it is said that Peter was sent to Salisbury, not to hawk an island for sale, but with careful instructions to treat with a group of would-be purchasers, already organized.

The Coffin group found that Peter had been on the Island for over ten years working with the Indians, raising their standard of living and teaching them Christianity. From the very beginning of the trade there was one difficulty — the buyers wanted no trouble with the Indians and if Thomas Mayhew could not demonstrate that he could buy land from them there would be no trade. There was no one who could settle this but Peter.

Peter Folger became a settler — a Half-Shares-Man — to "atend the English in the way of an interpreter between the Indians and them upon al ocasions" — this being the wording of the invitation to settle. But his duties did not stop there for shortly thereafter, June 1667, he became "miller" to say nothing of his work as surveyor. But probably the most important event took place about 1668 when Peter was made Clerk of Court with a specific yearly stipend. His oldest son, who subsequently became "a half share man" in his own right became "shoe maker" as well as assistant to his father and subsequently "blacksmith". That their time was well and fully employed goes without saying.

The long-time friendship between Peter Folger and the Gardners — Richard and Captain John of Salem, now developed into a much closer relationship, for about this time (1667) Richard Gardner moved with his family to Nantucket. Richard, had been trained as a good seaman and when Nantucket decided it needed such a man, it is not hard to suppose that Peter Folger got word to his friend. Richard Gardner and his wife, because of her religious beliefs, she being a Quaker, had been before the courts and paid fines until it became too much for Richard, who learning of Peter's move to Nantucket turned his thoughts likewise and promptly accepted the invitation to come and "inhabit" and to serve as a Seaman. Richard, however, carefully arranged with the Islanders for a full share. In 1671 Richard Gardner's eldest daughter, Sarah, married Eleazor Folger, Peter's oldest son, binding even closer the Folger-Gardner link.

It took six years however, for Peter Folger and Richard Gardner to induce Capt. John Gardner to give up his substantial interests in Salem and move his wife and six children to Nantucket. But restrictions in the Massachusetts Bay Colony were growing and hampering him more and more. Thus one can easily understand his prompt decision to move when he recived a formal letter dated 30th April 1674 signed by his old friend "Peter Ffoulger" with a grant of land and the call to "sett up the Trade of ffishing" — a trade in which as Peter knew, John had been especially trained and had carried out successfully. John Gardner lost no time after arriving in taking his place in Island affairs for five months after the offer was made to him, he not only "settled" but was elected one of the five selectmen chosen for the next year.

Here now we have three able and versatile men, leaders each in their own way but closely bound together. Here we have three men devoted to religious and political freedom and the development of industry as the first essentials for a settlement such as Nantucket. Little is it to be wondered that conflict for power arose shortly between them and Tristram Coffin and his faction who favored "an English Manor in America" for Nantucket.

Peter Folger's influence did not stop with his death but through his descendants broadened, yes, throughout the world, by reason of their heritage. Benjamin Franklin, Peter Folger's grandson, is the first example. In 1677 Peter went to New York to plead with the British Governor for a more democratic government on Nantucket. One hundred years later, almost a counter part, Benjamin Franklin, the grandson, went to England to plead likewise but for the American Colonies. Follow the lives of both and one cannot help but find in Peter Folger explanations for many of Franklin's unusual qualities; such as political interest; genius as a craftsman and his widespread interest and activities with many gadgets and in many fields including electricity, the course of the Gulf Stream, charted for him by Timothy Folger, another descendant, 1732-1814.

And now for the second question — Why is Nantucket erecting a permanent memorial this year to this man? His history alone is answer enough as to why a memorial should be erected. The real reason lies in the heart and soul of Nantucket's "Dr. Will" — legally known as Dr. William E. Gardner, Island historian and author. He it was who conceived the idea that the man who preceded the first settlers by ten years and became their "indispensible man" and who more than any other man among the first proprietors, encouraged regard for industry and political freedom as the first essentials for the new settlement should on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the birthday of Nantucket be suitably honored and recognized. He it was who stood upon the land of Peter Folger's original grant and visualized the memorial. He it was who induced the owner of the land, Thomas Hallowell, Jr., to donate it for the memorial. He it was who obtained the assent of the Nantucket Historical Association to take over the ownership and maintenance of the memorial upon completion. He it was above all, whose untiring efforts raised the funds needed to build the memorial according to the plans he had drawn up.

And now, thanks to "Dr. Will", the Folger-Franklin Seat and Memorial Boulder are a reality, the boulder bearing a large bronze tablet.

The third and last question. Why was he never so recognized before? This may well be answered in part at least by another question — how many towns have honored individual first settlers or in fact any of their settlers with permanent memorials? The answer is — few and very far between, so Nantucket is no exception to the pattern. It might well be added that Nantucket while proud of its historical past has been loath always to even indirectly boast of it, a trait inherited from early settlers and subsequently enhanced by Quakerism which at one time embraced a large percentage of the Islanders.

Someone might say, true enough, but then why the Abiah Folger Franklin Fountain on the Madaket Road? This monument was erected in 1900 by the local chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution as a tribute to the Nantucket woman, the mother of Benjamin Franklin, for whom the chapter was named — Abiah Folger Franklin Chapter.

Thus, we seem to find a simple answer. One man, Peter Folger, was through his work with the Indians and explorations of the Island ten years before the first settlers took up residence, the one person of whom it might truly be said — He was the pioneer who alone made the settlement possible and who, as has been previously stated did more than any other man among the first proprietors to encourage regard for industry and political freedom as the first essentials for the settlement.

So when the Memorial was first suggested, the idea met with popular approval and acclaimed to be a long neglected but fitting memorial especially as part of the 300th Anniversary Celebration, a memorial to the man "behind the scenes but who made the picture a reality" — Peter Folger.

Aug 15, 1959

Island Folger-Franklin Memorial to Be Dedicated

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Aug. 15—The Folger-Franklin Seat and Memorial Boulder will be dedicated here Saturday. It stands upon the land of Peter Folger's original grant and is owned and will be maintained by the Nantucket Historical Association.

The man responsible for the memorial is Dr. William E. Gardner, island historian and author.

Who are the men whom the memorial remembers? Everyone knows who Benjamin Franklin is. But Peter Folger is less known. This story about him has been told by W. Ripley Nelson of the Nantucket Historical Association.

Born in England

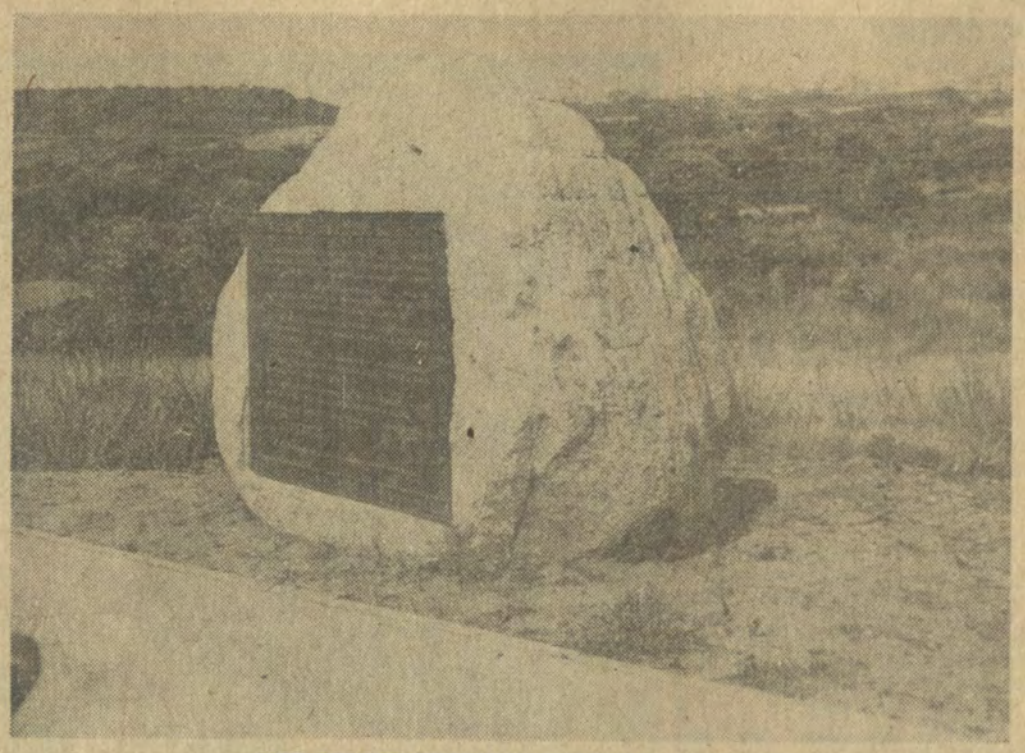
Folger, born in 1617 in England, came to America in 1635 with his father from Norfolk, England. They settled in Dedham, then in Watertown and then in 1642 he went to the new Martha's Vineyard colony in Edgartown to be the "right hand man" of Thomas Mayhew. His duties there led him to Nantucket where he also won the confidence of the Indians.

By 1644 he had saved up £20 and bought the indenture of Mary Morrill, whom he had met on the boat coming here. They were married and established their home on the Vineyard.

In 1658, things began happening. Members of Tristram Coffin's new settlement in the Merrimac Valley decided to buy Nantucket from Mayhew and establish an island colony. Folger became the "middle man" in the negotiations.

The Coffin group wanted no trouble with the Indians and it was up to Folger, who had spent 10 years working with the Indians, had many "pow wows" with the chiefs, convincing them that the coming of the white man would be a blessing. Finally he secured a deed with them for the "neck" of land which extends into Hummock Pond.

On July 2, the deed for the sale of Nantucket by Mayhew was signed. On May 10, 1660, the company then purchased initial Indian rights to about a quarter of the island. Folger was first witness. Nine months later, the company bought the west half of the island from the Indians. Other deeds followed with Folger always a witness.



THE FOLGER-FRANKLIN MEMORIAL BOULDER

Island Surveyed

The Coffin group spent two years surveying the island with Folger an indispensable member of the committee. His home, however, was still on the Vineyard and Mayhew resented the fact that he spent all his time on Nantucket. A charge of being "too liberal" in religious thinking was lodged against Folger and in 1662 he moved his family to Rhode Island. He wasn't happy there and on July 4, 1663 he was offered a half share if he would settle on Nantucket. He accepted happily.

Before he had even settled his family there, he heard that the Indian chief, King Philip, was coming from the mainland to arrest Chief Assamoogh, the first Indian baptized who was serving faithfully as one of the "praying Indian ministers." It was a ticklish situation for Folger. There must be no affront to the Indian religious conventions; the goodwill of the island Indians for the settlers must be retained; King Philip must be calmed down.

Even while the island Indians were in warpaint and King Philip's braves were looking for Assamoogh, Folger initiated a meeting with Indians from both sides. A payment of ransom was suggested and a bloody war averted. The day ended happily and Folger's reputation was enhanced on the island. He became the miller of the island as well as surveyor. In 1668 he was made clerk of the court.

In 1667 Folger induced Richard Gardner, trained as a seaman, to come to the island with his wife. Six years later Gardner's brother, Captain John Gardner, and his family from Salem also came to Nantucket, where the captain set up a fishing trade.

Five months after he came to the island he was named a selectman.

Conflict Began

With three such able men as Folger and the two Gardners as friends, a conflict of power with Coffin and his faction began. The trio favored religious and political freedom and the development of industry as the first essentials for the settlement while the other group favored "an English manor in America" for Nantucket.

Royalty had been restored in England and delegations from Nantucket called upon the Crown authorities in New York. Folger and John Gardner, who went to New York, made favorable impressions.

The climax of the fight came in August 1677, when it was claimed that the Coffin faction had illegally taken over control of the town. John Gardner was fined and disfranchised. Folger was imprisoned because he refused to give up the records as clerk of the court to the magistrates appointed by Coffin. These facts were sent to the governor of New York who suspended the complaint against Folger and the proceedings against Gardner.

From then on to his death in 1690 Folger continued to work for the development of Nantucket.

Folger has one more claim to fame.

On Aug. 15, 1667, Abiah, his ninth child and the only one to be born on Nantucket, arrived. She became the second wife of Josiah Franklin of Boston and mother of Benjamin Franklin.

Aug. 16, 1959
N.B.

Corrections

The caption under the photograph in our August 21 edition showing the presentation of a quarterboard to "Pleasure Island" in Wakefield was in error. The quarterboard was made by Charles F. Sayle, not by the Marine Lumber Co., as was stated.

The land on which the Folger Memorial boulder and bench has been erected, on the Madaket Road, was donated for the purpose by Mr. Thomas Hallowell, not James Hallowell, as was stated in our last issue.

Sept. 4, 1959

Folger Family Reunion Enjoys Well-Planned, Varied Program

The Folger Family Reunion Committee Chairman is Mrs. Dorothy Folger Rowley of Richmond, Va. She is well qualified for service, being treasurer of Highway Machinery and Supply Corporation of Virgina, a very responsible position. Her husband, Frank Selby Rowley, is a portrait painter of some renown, having been commissioned by Hilbert J. Bernstein of Richmond, Va., to do the Official Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II at the occasion of the 350th Anniversary Celebration of Jamestown and presented to the Jamestown Commission in November, 1957. (Picture to be published next week. He also made the portrait of the Queen Mother which was presented by J. Lindsay Moore of the Virginia House of Delegates to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in 1956. He studied at Nassau Institute of Art and is a graduate of the Art Students League. This is their first visit to Nantucket but they are charmed by its unstilted antiquity which seems too natural, not having been contrived or restored as so many other places of quaint charm have been.

Mr. Franklin Folger Webster, the Nantucket Chairman and Treasurer, has done a monumental job of planning and welcoming, being the guiding light in the whole affair ably seconded by his charming wife who busily performed the social tasks of introducing people to one another who had things of interest to impart.

The Chaplain for the reunion was Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd and other members of the committee were Prof. Joseph Butler Folger, Jr., serving as geneological expert. He summers at Surfside and is a Professor of Romance languages at Dartmouth College. Last, but not least, is Mrs. Katharine Coe Folger, wife of Dr. George Folger, the Nantucket Town Physician for many years. This couple has graciously opened their home for an informal social hour on Friday afternoon as the finale of the reunion.

At the registration which was held at the Gordon Folger Hotel on Wednesday from 9-4, there were several items of interest on display including many of the cartoons called "The Girls" by Franklin Folger whose hilariously funny work is nationally syndicated. Also was a table of material on the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D. C. This institution for historical research was founded by Henry Clay Folger in 1930. It is a handsome structure, in keeping with the architectural simplicity of our nation's capitol, but it is quite ornate within. The manuscripts and books, especially of the 16th and 17th century which are housed therein are of note. There is a theater as well.

At one table J. Butler Folger was giving out information on relationships to those desirous of it.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stanatis of Boston, Mass., were early arrivals. She is the former Elizabeth Bennett, daughter of Will Bennett and niece of Florence Bennett Anderson of Walla Walla, Wash., who will be remembered for her many books, "Through the Hawsehole", etc. Mrs. Anderson was regretful that ill health prevented her attending the occasion. She writes: "Mingled with my deep regret that I am unable to be present at your gala dinner — is the delight that the descendants of Peter Folger will be making this family gathering a part of Nantucket's Tercentenary Celebration. No other of those pioneer English Settlers of our island deserves more than he the tribute of history for able, patient and courageous work in shaping an anomolous community into the pattern of orderly civic freedom — this in addition to duty as land surveyor and interpreter to the Indians."

For a considerable distance comes the Harry Armstrongs who make their home in Sacramento, Calif. Mrs. Armstrong is the former Ardell Folger. They have just attended another reunion, that of the Gallup family, in Groton, Conn., where the speaker was none other than the Gallup Poll expert. She was carrying a most interesting medallion which portrayed Benjamin Franklin's likeness. This was presented by Franklin himself to Captain Timothy Folger in 1769 on the occasion of the birth of a son. The tale goes, that Capt. Folger met his cousin, Franklin, on a London Street and told him of the birth of the son. Franklin said "What's his name?" As he had none, Benjamin modestly suggested that the child be named Benjamin Franklin Folger and the medallion was presented to Timothy in commemoration thereof. Mrs. Armstrong is the great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin Folger. This is the very Captain Timothy Folger who discovered and charted the Gulf Stream as it is known today.

In honor of the Folger Reunion five lovely Nantucket homes were opened on Thursday. Holding open house for the large group of visiting Folger cousins were the Misses Monaghan of 8 Howard Street, Mrs. Louise E. Glass of 153 Main Street, Miss Margry Weirich at the Maria Mitchell Memorial House, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Folger Webster, and Wallace Hall.

Each home is unique and has many interesting stories for the visitor.

The Monaghan home was originally David Folger's barn. Now finished for comfortable living and furnished with beautiful pieces from France, Italy and China, only the wide, rough hewn beams suggest its original purpose. A strikingly shallow though massive fireplace in the living-room provoked a bet between the builder and Miss Monaghan. He insisted that it was too shallow to draw; she was sure it would. To settle the argument, a man climbed up on the roof and dropped a lighted cigarette down the chimney. It fell, then turned and went up again, proving that the draft was perfect.

The home of Mrs. Louise Glass, 153 Main Street, is believed to date back to 1724. It was moved to its present site from Sherburne when the old harbor closed up. When Mrs. Glass bought it, the original sills which had been directly on the ground for more than two centuries were rotted beyond repair, and the house was raised four feet in order to place a solid foundation beneath. The wide floor boards and exposed beams are particularly interesting.

At the Maria Mitchell Memorial House, Miss Margery Weirich and Mrs. Alice Amey were ably assisted by a member of the Folger family's younger generation. Miss Elizabeth Amey who, despite her youth, did a very fine job of conducting people through the house and explaining points of interest in the typical old Quaker home.

In the living room of the Franklin Folger Webster home at 112 Main Main Street, seven generations were pictured on the wall, the newest being the Webster's grandchildren, and the oldest Mr. Webster's great great grandfather. Displayed in the same room were three whaling logs, one describing a near ship wreck, another telling of the mutiny of a boat's crew, and the third with colored drawings of whaling scenes.

Wallace Hall, presently owned by the Nantucket Historical Trust, is an example of the gracious living of the last century. Built in 1824 and unscathed by the great fire of 1846, it is a large and luxurious house. Many fine pieces of furniture were on display and available for sale including a tambour desk of mahogany with a bell flower inlay made by Reuben Folger about 1816. A mirror in the front parlor was part of the $500,000 cargo of the British ship "Queen" which was wrecked off Nobadeer with a prize crew aboard after being captured by the American privateer "Gen. Armstrong" in January, 1813. The builder purchased the mirror and copied the corner designs over the doors and windows of the house.

Pleasant skies and a sea breeze on Thursday morning made the occasion of the dedication of the Folger-Franklin Seat and Memorial Boulder one which will long be remembered by the many people who attended. The members of the DAR had turned out in their costumes with a resultant effect on the hillside which was most pleasing. From below on the Madaket Road, where the Abiah Folger Franklin Memorial tablet has stood since the days of horse-drawn vehicles, the gathering looked like a flower garden with the many colorful outfits clustered about the boulder and seat. After pictures of all "Peters" were taken, the actual speech of dedication was given by Franklin Folger Webster. He did such an admirable job that we must go to press with only a resume, promising the complete text in next week's issue, as everyone should have the privilege of the whole substance. Briefly, he honored the memory of three generations of the family beginning with the early settler, Peter Folger, whose desire for fairness and freedom set the tone of the island community; his daughter Abiah Folger born near the site of the memorial, who, at the age of 22 married Josiah Franklin, a widower with seven children and by whom she had ten of her own; and her youngest son, Benjamin Franklin, illustrious American of the first order of statesmanship, whose name is a byword to all Americans.

Giving much of the credit of the development of this idea of commemoration to Dr. Will Gardner and to Mr. James Hallowell, who gave the land for the purpose, Mr. Webster then introduced Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd, of Winthrop, who officiated at the religious dedication of the site. In having all of those present repeat the phrase, "We dedicate this memorial", after several paragraphs of moment, Mr. Folger was able to bring a true sense of consecration to the group. He cited that this simple boulder was a symbol of the humble origins of the forefathers, with their sense of fair play to the Indians, fostered by Peter Folger, their devotion to ideals of independence, and their willingness through the years to make sacrifices for the causes which they believed in. Dedicated not only to the past and the present generation, but to the perpetuity of the liberal adherence to the right as we see it, there was a true sense of humble reverence which made the Folgers feel themselves united, and the other people privileged to attend.

On Wednesday evening the pictures of Nantucket which were shown at the World's Fair in Brussels last year were presented to the Folger Reunion by Mrs. Ruth Ley after a few introductory remarks by Mr. Franklin Folger Webster. Entitled, "Nantucket, Island of the Whalers," this gave a good background to the gathered clan of Folgers.

Thursday evening at a delightful turkey dinner served at the Sea Cliff Inn the members of the Folger Reunion enjoyed an evening of fellowship and enlightenment. The invocation was asked by Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd., of Winthrop, Mass. The master of ceremonies was Mr. Franklin Folger Webster who introduced the chairman, Mrs. Dorothy Folger Rowley, of Richmond, Va., after which he gave some very interesting highlights and oddities of Nantucket history.

Needless to say, he eulogized the Folgers, especially the "faculized" ones.

Joseph Butler Folger, Jr., gave a few anecdotes followed by informal remarks from the floor by Dr. Leonard Labaree, editor of the papers of Benjamin Franklin at Yale, Mrs. Armstrong told of her Benjamin Franklin medallion, and Dr. Will Gardner took a bow. Rev. Harry Paine Folger, 2nd, gave his opinion of the island, and as he spent his honeymoon here, this place has a rather divine attraction for him shared by many. Mr. Webster then closed with pleasant remarks concerning the gathering, wishing them a quick return to the home port of Nantucket. The benediction followed.

An informal social hour was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. George A. Folger to conclude the Folger family reunion.

Aug. 28, 1959

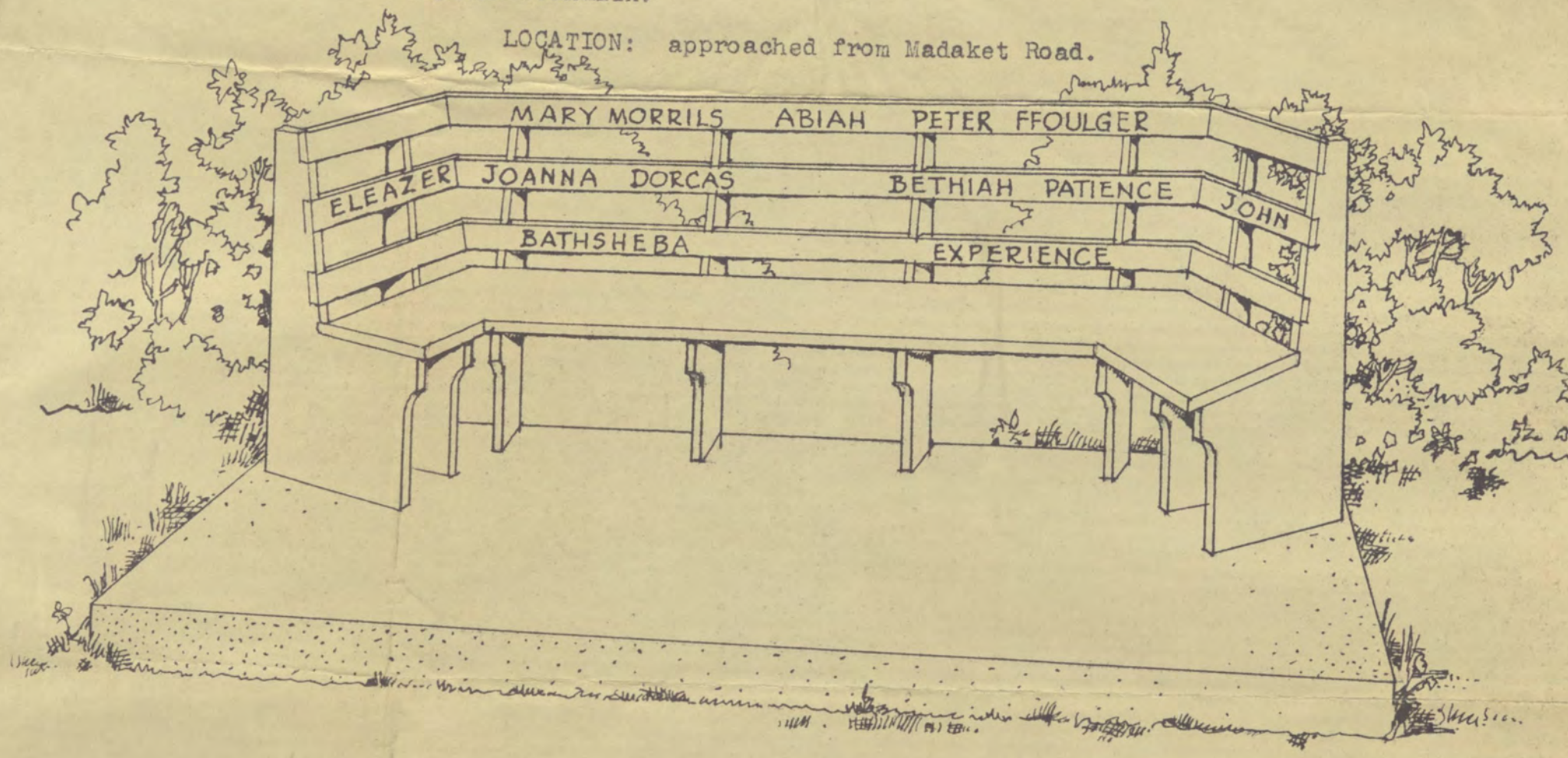
A FOLGER project proposed for the 300th Anniversary of the Settlement of Nantucket Island 1659.

THE FOLGER - FRANKLIN SEAT

and

Memorial Boulder with bronze tablet, commemorating Peter Folger and Mary Morrils, his wife and Peter's last born child, ABIAH, who became the mother of Benjamin Franklin.

LOCATION: approached from Madaket Road.



MACY

Nantucket Reunion Held By 100 Macy Descendants

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, June 22 — More than 100 direct descendants of Thomas Macy, one of Nantucket's original white settlers, gathered at a Macy family reunion banquet in the Sea Cliff Inn Saturday night.

It was the first of a series of family reunions to be held throughout the Summer by descendants of the original 13 first settlers, as part of the island's 300th birthday celebration.

It marked the first time a Macy family reunion had ever been held and representatives of the family came from 34 States.

Those who came from the most distant points included Mr. and Mrs. George O. Wilson and their nine children of San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Brenner came from Salem, Ore. They brought birthday greetings from Governor Mark O. Hatfield and an invitation to the Macy family to hold its next reunion in that State.

Present from Roswell, N. M., were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davies. Mr. and Mrs. J. Raymond Kroff were present from Ogden, Utah.

There are only 11 residents of the island left here from the original family and all were present at the reunion. The group included Mr. and Mrs. Seddon Legg, Miss Aletha Macy, a sister of Mrs. Legg; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Folger Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Huram Macy, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Kenyon and Mr. and Mrs. Seddon Legg, Jr.

Former Congressman Kingsland Macy, of New York, presided as toastmaster. He introduced head table guests including Curtiss S. Johnson, of Essex, Conn., chairman of the reunion committee; Mrs. Kathleen Macy Finn, of Southport, Conn., whose etchings were used to illustrate the souvenir program; Foster Macy Johnson, of Meriden, Conn., Mr. and Mrs. Legg of Nantucket and J. Noel Macy of Washington.

The invocaton was given by the Rev. Clinton Macy, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Salem, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Foster Macy.

Benediction was offered by the Rev. Thomas Macy Finn, son of Mrs. Kathleen Finn, of Southport, Conn. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood two weeks ago.

Participants becoming acquainted with each other at the banquet, laying plans for the permanent organization of the Macy family group, with a view to holding annual reunions in various parts of the country.

There was also a lengthy discussion about bringing the family genealogy up to date. The last genealogy was completed in 1868 by the late Sylvanus J. Macy.

June 22, 1959
N.B.

Macy Family Reunion

Armed with an impressive green volume entitled "Geneology of the Macy Family," the registrar welcomed a large and enthusiastic attendance to the Macy Family Reunion at the Sea Cliff Inn, Saturday evening, June 20.

Macys, young and old, traveled from as far away as San Diego, Calif., and as near as Main Street, Nantucket, Mass.

Cousins, brothers, sisters, husbands and wives, almost every possible relationship to the original Macys of this island, registered for an excellent dinner of fresh fruit, garden salad, roast sirloin, and strawberry shortcake.

Speeches of welcome and remembrance were offered as well as introductions of members of the reunion committee, including chairman, Curtiss S. Johnson, Essex, Conn.; Mrs. Kathleen Macy Finn, Southport, Conn.; Foster Macy Johnson, Meriden, Conn.; Madeleine Macy Legg, Nantucket, and J. Joel Macy, Washington, D. C.

The Honorable Kingsland W. Macy acting as toastmaster, set the mood of the evening with his warm, friendly pace as the festivities progressed

With more than a dozen youngsters present representing a new generation on the way up, it appears that there will indeed be Macy Family reunions for a very long time in the future.

Among the decisions at the business meeting of the Macy reunion was that which concerned the holding of smaller reunions in various parts of the country in the future. Thomas Finn was made chairman of a committee to bring the Macy genealogy up to date as the existing one ended in 1864.

June 20, 1959

Macy Family Reunion

Mrs. Seddon W. Legg of 51 Orange Street, has joined the Macy Family Reunion Committee which is laying plans for the gathering of the descendants of Thomas Macy to be held on June 20 and 21 during the 300th anniversary years of Nantucket. Mrs. Legg, who was Madeleine Macy, will act as the Nantucket representative for the reunion, and all Macys on the island can get the information about the program as it is developed from her.

The highlight of the reunion is to be a dinner at the Sea Cliff Inn on Saturday evening, June 20. The committee is hoping that every Macy descendant on the island will be able to attend the dinner.

Each diner will be presented with a set of six tumblers, each of which has a reproduction of the famous William H. Macy, a Clipper Ship, upon it. The tumblers are being especially manufactured for the dinner by the Libby-Owens Glass Co.

The Lord Mayor of Chilmark, England, original home of Thomas Macy is being invited to the dinner, although word has not been received as to whether he will be able to attend, but there will be more than 250 Macys, gathered from nearly every State of the Union present, and many will be making their first trip to Nantucket.

Hon. W. Kingsland Macy, of Islip, N. Y., former Empire State Congressman will preside, and while there are to be no formal speeches, it is expected there will be short responses from Macys in various walks of life from various parts of the country.

Reservations for the dinner should be made either with Mrs. Legg, or with committee chairman, Curtiss S. Johnson, River Road, Essex, Conn.

Feb. 22, 1959



—Standard-Times Staff Photo

MACYS OF NANTUCKET gathered yesterday for a reunion as part of the town's observance of its 300th anniversary. More than 100 descendants of Thomas Macy, one of Nantucket's original white settlers, gathered at Sea Cliff Inn Saturday night. Taking a prominent part in the program were, left to right, W. Kinsland Macy of Islip, L. I., Mrs. Madeline Macy Legg of Nantucket, Mrs. Franklin Folger Webster and Mr. Webster of Nantucket and Curtis S. Johnson of Essex, Conn.

June 20, 1959
N.B.



Some 194 descendants of Thomas Macy, one of Nantucket's original proprietors, gathered here for a three-day reunion at the Sea Cliff Hotel, first of several reunions of old Nantucket families observing Nantucket's 300th anniversary this year.

194 *Macys, In Reunion Here, Voted To Perpetuate Themselves Into Organization*

Descendants of Thomas Macy, one of Nantucket's nine original proprietors — 194 strong from 34 States — sat down to their first reunion banquet at the Sea Cliff Hotel Saturday night on the anniversary date that their forbear first stepped on this Island.

Dr. William E. Gardner, Nantucket author-historican and himself a descendant of Thomas Macy, informed the gathering

Macys—

(Continued from Page 1)

that their ancestor had stepped ashore here just 300 years ago that same day — a thought which had come to his mind when he awoke that day.

Dr. Gardner welcomed "our cousins" to the Island and briefly related the story of the sale of Nantucket to the original proprietors. Thomas Macy, he said, had made an advance trip to the Island and was thus the first of the lot to set foot here.

Former New York Congressman Kingsland Macy served as toastmaster at the gathering of Macy descendants, some of whom were visiting the Island for the first time.

One of the highlights of the evening was unanimous approval to perpetuate an organization of the Macy clan up-date the genealogy of its members.

Among the prominent Macy descendants in attendance were Noel and Valentine Macy who operate a string of daily newspapers in West Chester County and their wives.

Largely responsible for arrangements for the three-day gathering of the Macy descendants was Curtis Johnson, Connecticut newspaper publisher, chairman of the committee in charge. Also in attendance was his twin-brother, Foster, and their wives.

In response to a query, six descendants with the same name as their forbear, Thomas Macy, stood up. One of them was the sleeping baby of the Rev. and Mrs. Clinton H. Macy of Salem.

The Rev. Macy is son of Mr. and Mrs. Huram Macy of Nantucket. Nantucket Macys in attendance included Mr. and Mrs. Seddon W. Legg, both of whom were lauded by Chairman Johnson for their part in making reunion arrangements; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kenyon and their son, Albert Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Peter Folger Webster and Mr. and Mrs. Seddon Legg Jr. and their children.

Guests who came from long distances and were introduced included Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Brenner of Salem, Ore. who brought greetings from Oregon's Governor Hatfield and an invitation to have the Macy family hold its next reunion in that State; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis of Roswell, N. M.; Mrs. Nellie O. Macy of Segundo, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hargraves of Sioux Falls, S. D.; Arthur Macy of Indianapolis who introduced Dr. Gardner; May Alice Macy of Lincoln, Nebraska and Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Wilson of San Francisco.

Some of the women at the gathering were dressed in traditional Quaker costume. Invocation was by the Rev. Macy and benediction by the Rev. Thomas Macy Finn.

June 19, 1959

SWAIN

Swain Reunion

Registrations for the Swain Family Reunion to be held September 4, 5, and 6, will be received at the Nantucket Atheneum on Sept. 4 from 2-4 p.m.

Saturday morning there will be a tour of the Island by car. This tour will include stops at the Old Mill and the site of the original John Swain House in Polpis.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Craig have very kindly consented to open their house to the Swain descendants. This house is a replica of the John Swain House.

Saturday evening the reunion banquet will be held at the Sea Cliff Inn at 8 o'clock.

40 Attend Swain Family Get-Together at Nantucket

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Sept. 7—The Swains were an important factor in the early development of Nantucket, descendants of this old island family line were told Saturday night at the Swain family reunion dinner by Franklin Folger Webster, principal speaker. Mr. Webster, a retired business executive now living year round on the island, was introduced by Elmore Swain of Nantucket to the 40 members of the Swain clan in attendance at the dinner held at the Sea Cliff Inn. Mr. Swain was master of ceremonies.

"When there was any activity going on in the early days the Swains were involved in it somewhere," said Mr. Webster. "They were active in the whaling days and the depression that followed. We see signs of them everywhere. There is Swain's Neck at Polpis, Swain Hill on the Madaket Road, Swain's Mill, now called the Old Mill; Swain's Inn, now the Holiday Inn, and Swain's Wharf, now the Island Service Company Wharf. We also have a Swain Street in the Brant Point section and there is a Swain's Island in the Pacific Ocean."

Traces Family Origin

Tracing the origin of the family line, Mr. Webster said he found the Swain family was of Scandinavian descent and was introduced to England when the Danes overran the country. He said the Doomsday Book listed several Swains, spelled in the old English style as Swayne. They were land owners and men of substantial means.

Richard Swayne came to America in 1635 and settled in Rowley, in Essex County. He was one of the original purchasers of the island and when he came to Nantucket only one of his children, John, was with him. Mr. Webster said, "From John all the Nantucket Swains have descended."

Mr. Webster said John Swain had nine children, Mary, John, Stephen, Sarah, Joseph, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Hannah and Patience. He pointed out that Mary married Joseph Nason. Mr. Webster then called on Nason Swain, who was born in Nantucket and is a direct descendant of John Swain, to stand and take a bow.

Mr. Webster held the close attention of his audience as he told a number of stories of the old days, including one about a girl named Love Swain who made a cut in the dam holding back the water of the Lily Pond and ruined a mill, the dam and left a number of vessels aground in the creek.

"The cause of the draining of the Lily Pond remained a mystery for many years," said Mr. Webster, "until one day when this girl, in her 80s and about to die, called in some of her friends and disclosed her secret."

One of First Selectmen

He also told of Richard Swain being disenfranchised because he violated an early law that no Quaker could be entertained in the home of a settler in 1659, and how John became prominent enough to be one of the men selected to serve on the first Board of Selectmen in 1671 and was made a highway surveyor in 1684.

Mr. Webster said that John first settled near Hummock Pond and later moved to the Polpis section. During the whaling days he set up a large whaling stage at Sasachacha and was prominent in the industry.

At the conclusion of Mr. Webster's talk, Toastmaster Swain called on Thomas J. Hallowell, a New York investment broker, who laughingly told the Swain family group, "I came into the Swain family through the back door, so to speak. My family line on my mother's side came from the Slocums of Dartmouth one of whom came to Nantucket and married a Swain. So I am a distant cousin of the Swains."

Mr. Hallowell said the Swain coat-of-arms was confirmed in England in 1612 and if steps were taken to prove that the first Swain was entitled to it the coat-of-arms could be authenticated for this branch of the family.

Gets Vote of Thanks

Mrs. Virginia M. Swain of Union Street, Nantucket, who did most of the work in arranging for the family reunion was introduced by the toastmaster and was given a rising vote of thanks for her successful efforts.

Also introduced was Mrs. Lillian Swayne Miller of Perkasie, Buck's County Pa., whose forefathers left Nantucket and settled in Pennsylvania in 1704. Mrs Miller had with her a great deal of information about the early Swain families on Nantucket, written in longhand on a large number of papers by an uncle. This was open to any of the persons at the reunion who wished to see if any of their early family members were mentioned in it.

Mrs. Ruth Swain Calongne of Philadelphia was declared the person who had traveled the longest distance to the reunion.

Each one in attendance was presented with a small pottery ash tray with a whale design on it and the words, "Swain Reunion, 1959." They were made on Nantucket at the Old Spouter Pottery Shop.

The reunion started Friday with a tour of the island and a visit to the original site of the John Swain homestead, which was struck by lightning and burned in 1902. The group also visited the Donald Craig home in Polpis. This house is a replica of the old Swain homestead.

The group posed for the reunion picture in front of the Old Mill, which was at one time called the John Swain Mill.

The reunion will come to an end with a social hour at the home of Mrs. Gladys Swain at 38 Fair Street.

Sept. 8, 1959
N.B.

Swain Family Reunion Banquet Attended by 40 Relatives

"It's nice to find out who your relatives are," This remark was made by a Swain as she sat down to dinner Saturday night with 40 other family members at the Sea Cliff Inn. The occasion was the final social event of the Swain Reunion. The family reunion began Friday with a tour of the island and a visit to the site of the original John Swain house.

After a delicious dinner, Elmore Swain, asking as toastmaster, greeted the family with "Dear relatives," and gave them a warm welcome. Mr. Swain informed his relatives that the dinner was a very informal affair and would be conducted on that basis. He then introduced Franklin Folger Webster, a retired businessman living year round on the island.

Mr. Webster said he had a few notes he would refer to from time to time and took from his pocket a rather formidable sheaf of paper. True to his word, he used the papers merely as reference and his remarks were interesting and to the point.

In his research, Mr. Webster said he found eight lines of descent from the original John Swain. During the whaling days the Swains were prominent property owners, as evidenced by such names as Swain's Neck, Swain Hill, Swain Mill, Swain Inn (now Holiday Inn), Swain Wharf (Old South Wharf), and even a Swain Island in the South Pacific.

According to Mr. Webster, there was only one Swain who did anything reprehensible. He referred to the then young lady who lived near the Lily Pond, at that time a large body of water, harboring an island and the mill, and contained within its boundaries by a dam. One day this girl noticed the pond was very full and decided to do something about it.

She dug a little trench for the water to run off and then went gaily on her way to supper. The next morning her father discovered the land flooded and all the residents in that district tried to discover how it had happened. The little girl, being frightened, held her tongue and it was considered one of the great mysteries of the island for many years.

Just before the young lady passed away in the 80th year, no longer really "young," she finally confessed that it was she who had released the water from the Lily Pond. Her name was Love Swain.

The Swains originally came from Scandinavia and migrated to England during the time the Danes invaded the British Isles. The family name then was Swayne. The first Swain to come to America was Richard Swain in 1635, who settled in Rowley. With him was a son named John. This John was the progenator of all the Swains through his nine children.

Richard Swain left for Nantucket because of the religious persecution and the law forbidding the entertainment of Quakers in one's home. At first this entertainment "tax" was five pounds for each offense. This was later raised by the General Court of Massachusetts to 40 shillings for each hour of entertainment.

Richard was one of the original purchasers of Nantucket and John become one of the first five Selectmen. He also made mill stones in 1663-64, and was a surveyor of the highways. There were several Swains important in the whaling industry as well as in politics especially in the General Court. Early Quaker meetings were held in John's house, and later the Swains were important in the Universalist and Unitarian Churches.

The first Richard Swain was not educated enough to sign his name but future Swains became teachers and the Swain name is found among educators in "Who's Who."

"So, you see," concluded Mr. Webster, "the Swains were just good, normal people just like all the rest."

Mr. Thomas J. Hallowell, an investment broker, was introduced by the toastmaster. Mr. Hallowell said he came into the Swain family through "the back door." He was descended from the Slocums of Dartmouth, one of whom came to Nantucket and married a Swain.

Mr. Hallowell pointed out the coat of arms occupying a conspicuous place in the banquet hall. This coat of arms was confirmed in 1612 in England and if it can be proved that Richard was entitled to its use, it could be validated for the Nantucket branch of the Swain family—if any of them are interested in a coat of arms.

Mrs. Lillian Swayne Miller, of Perkasie, Buckks County, Pa., had some interesting facts about the Nantucket Swains written laboriously in longhand by an uncle who had migrated to the Keystone State. She invited anyone interested to read the document.

At the banquet were four generations of the same branch of the family: Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Swain, their daughter, Mrs. Pearl Miko; her daughter, Mrs. Barbara Walsh, and her daughter, Wendy.

Mrs. Ruth Swain Calongne came the farthest distance to attend the reunion—from Philadelphia. No one volunteered to try for the oldest member of the family.

Sept. 11, 1959

52 *Descendants Of First Island Swains Swap Family History At Clan Reunion*

Fifty-two members of the Swain family, descendants of one of the first settlers of Nantucket, gathered last weekend to swap family history, visit ancestral sites and hold their family dinner.

They were the fifth family to mark the 300th birthday Summer with a reunion, and as in the other gatherings, the focal point was the banquet when 42 dined at the Sea Cliff Inn Saturday night and listened to speakers describe the family history.

Mrs. Charles Swain of Nantucket was chairman of the reunion which drew the family members from northeastern United States. Mrs. Ruth Swain Calongne of Philadelphia was the family member from furthest away, although Richard Swain of Marion, Mass., a teacher at Tabor Academy, held an honor too in having been in London, England, Friday morning and Nantucket Saturday night to attend the reunion.

No Swain kin would acknowledge being the oldest present, but the youngest was Wendy Walsh, age 8, and the great granddaughter of the dinner's master of ceremonies, Elmore Swain. Other members making it four generations present, and all Nantucketers, were Wendy's mother, Mrs. John B. Walsh, and Wendy's grandmother, Mrs. William Miko.

At the family dinner, presided over by Elmore Swain, the principal speaker was Franklin Folger Webster of Fanwood, N.J., and a Nantucket Summer resident.

The Swains were prominent citizens, Mr. Webster said, prosperous farmers in Polpis, successful whaling captains, church and civic leaders.

This is reflected in the number of places that bore the family name, said the retired business executive, Swain's Mill which is now the Old Mill, Swain's Neck at Polpis, Swain's Wharf or Old South, Swain Street on Brant Point, Swain's Hill on the Madaket Road, and the Swain house.

The Swains came to Nantucket to escape religious persecution, said Mr. Webster, for harboring Quakers in the Bay Colony. Richard Swain and his son John were among the nine original purchasers of the Island, and the first selectmen appointed included the name of the latter, Mr. Webster said.

Originally settling on Hummock Pond, the family moved to Polpis where they farmed the land for many generations, said Mr. Webster.

Another speaker on family history was Thomas J. Hallowell Jr., of Northport, L.I., and a Summer resident, who talked as well on the Swain family coat of arms, a reproduction of which was displayed by reunion chairman Virginia Swain. As in the case of the coats of arms of most other Nantucket families, the Swain's has not been authenticated, but Mr. Hallowell said he would write the College of Heraldry in England to see if it could be

A surprise visitor was Mrs. Lillian Swain Miller of Bucks County, Pa., who was at the Sea Cliff with the Chester, Pa., Methodist Church group, and had with her a large sheaf of information on family history which the kinfolk studied after the dinner.

In the small informal family gathering members arose to introduce themsleves to their cousins, and they also stood when Mr. Webster read the roll of the nine children of John Swain from whom they were all descended.

Another opportunity for a Nantucket gam was afforded earlier in the day when family members made a pilgrimage to family sites. At 9 am they left from the Atheneum in private cars to the Old Mill, once the John Swain Mill, where the family picture was taken, and then out to Polpis to the site of the original John Swain home, once the oldest house on the Island, which was destroyed by lightning in 1902.

They were also received at the Donald Craig home across the road which is a replica of the Swain homestead. Pictures of the house plus old volumes on Nantucket lands and landholders were on display, and Charles Swain and Mrs. Gladys Chadwick Swain led the discussion among the family members on their history in Polpis.

The tour ended there for most of the family, but six continued out to Madaket to visit the restored home of Mrs. Barbara Wood which stands on the site of where the original settlers may have made their landfall.

The reunion concluded Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Gladys Swain at 38 Fair Street where a social hour was held.

Working with Mrs. Virginia Swain on the reunion committee were her husband Charles, Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Swain, Mr. and Mrs. Webster, Mr. Hallowell and Mrs. Henry Kehlenbeck of Syracuse, N.Y.

Sept. 11, 1959



Members of the Swain Family Reunion photographed in front of Nantucket's Old Mill.

HUSSEYS

18 *Of Hussey Clan Hold Reunion*

The descendants of the "livest people in Nantucket's Society," in the words of Dr. William E. Gardner, last weekend closed the family reunion season during Nantucket's 300th birthday celebration.

Gathered for a small but congenial reunion were 18 members of the Hussey clan. Their activities included a dinner at The Breakers Saturday night and a tour of the Cyrus Hussey House on Pleasant Street Sunday morning. All but three of the families were from on Island.

One of the off-Island members, and a seafaring man in the tradition of the Hussey family, was Vice-Admiral George S. Hussey, USN (Ret.), of Norwalk, Conn., who made the major address at the dinner.

The former chief of the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance gave a salty talk on his naval experiences from the time he graduated from Annapolis in 1916, and focusing on the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor when Admiral Hussey was commodore of Mine Squadron Three, about which, he told his listeners, the "Caine Mutiny" was written.

The trim flag officer called it a "tale of what happened to a Hussey over the years."

Tales of other Husseys were told by Dr. Gardner who illustrated the family character with descriptions of a quartet of lively family members. The historian told the audience of 20 that if his eyesight were not failing he would like to write the story of the Husseys.

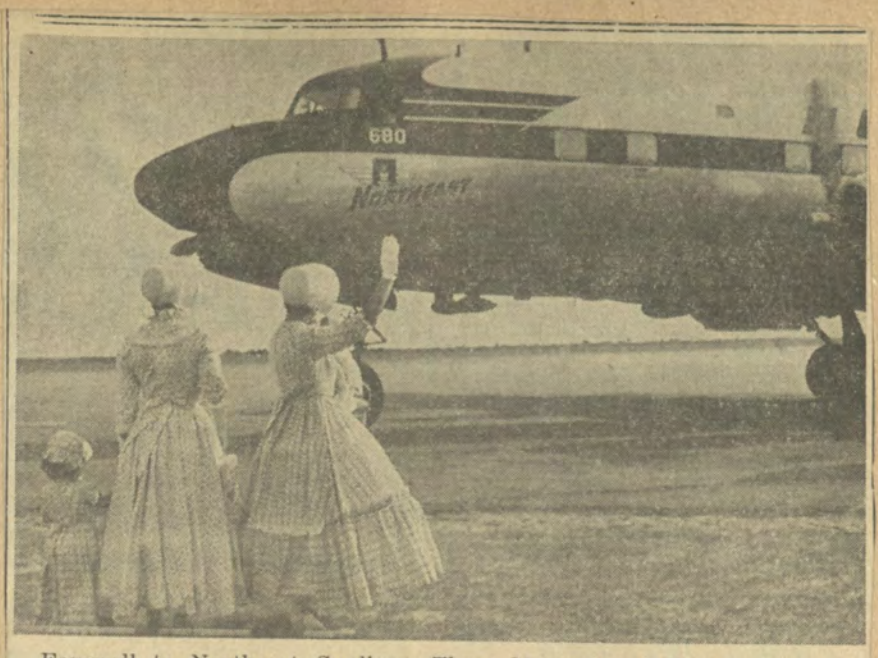
Stephen Hussey, elder of the Quaker meeting and lawyer, received the fullest treatment from Dr. Gardner in his witty talk. Stephen Hussey's son George, the first Nantucketer to graduate from Harvard, and two family members Dr. Gardner had known, William Hussey Macy, a whaler and the author of "Thar She Blows", and Dr. Gardner's grandfather, Jared Tracy, were also dealt with concisely and humorously by the speaker.

Robert C. Caldwell, reunion chairman, presided at the dinner, introduced the speakers, and after the speeches showed a movie of Nantucket made in the '30s.

Sunday morning the family toured the Cyrus Hussey house on Pleasant Street, now owned by Richard Neas, and examined the family bible, a history of the house written by Mr. Caldwell's mother, and took pictures in the boxwood gardens of the family members.

Sept. 18, 1959

GOOD BYE



Farewell to Northeast Sunliner. Three Nantucket ladies wave farewell to the last scheduled Sunliner for the season as it leave Memorial Airport for New York. Mrs. Francina Gibbs, daughter Jackie, and Miss Anne Clark, are dressed for Nantucket Island's 300th Birthday Celebration, during which Northeast Airlines scheduled its Sunliners to Nantucket from Hyannis and New York. With the fall schedule being resumed, the aircraft will fly on the New England to Florida route.

Sept, 18, 1959

The 300th Anniversary

Now that the 300th Birthday Anniversary is behind us, it may be possible to assess the benefits derived therefrom.

There will be many opinions on this subject, but there is no question about its being an interesting summer. Some of the events held might well be developed into annual affairs — if enough dedicated citizens could be found to do the work required to make them successful.

The results of the efforts of the Paul Newsome Company are not readily apparent. Many of their projects had to do with off-island publicity, and carried the name of Nantucket far and wide, through radio, TV, magazines and newspapers.

Many thousands of people who had never heard of Nantucket are now aware of this island's existence and a fair percentage of them will eventually find their way here.

It is hard for us here on Nantucket to properly recognize the very excellent work done by the Newsome Company, as we saw only one phase of their work — that dealing with the events which took place on the island.

Certainly, some of the scheduled events petered out, but with such an ambitious program this was bound to happen. But we believe the positive side far outweighed the negative, and believe that the island has made a lasting impression on the members of the public relations firm, so that they will continue to "plug" for us at every opportunity.

Sept 25, 1959

Thanks Expressed

Editors of The Inquirer and Mirror:

The scheduled activities of Nantucket's 300th Anniversary Celebration have been completed, and I take this occasion to express the gratitude of the Steering Committee to the great number of persons who gave of their time and properties in a most gracious manner toward the successful completion of the many subjects covered by the program.

A count made at a recent date disclosed there were over 500 people who are known to have taken an active part and many other whose efforts have been given so quietly they are unknown to us.

There was a total of 75 scheduled items successfully completed. Because of weather, and other difficulties, nine events which we consider important had to be canceled or curtailed, which was regrettable, although unavoidable.

Members of the committee appreciate the help generously given and we express our thanks to all who, through affection for the Town and Island of Nantucket, aided in a fitting celebration.

300th Birthday
Steering Committee
George W. Jones, Chairman

Sept. 18, 1959

Birthday Steering Committee Gives Report to Selectmen

The text of the report of Nantucket's 300th Birthday Steering Committee to the Board of Selectmen of Nantucket, presented to them last week, read as follows:

Gentlemen:

The year of Nantucket's 300th Anniversary Celebration being about completed and the work of this committee having reached its final stages the following is a synopsis of the work since its start three years ago this month.

After the idea of a celebration in recognition of Nantucket's 300 years of inhabitance by the white race had been talked of by both the Nantucket Historical Association Council and the Nantucket Board of Selectmen, a meeting was arranged and held December 11, 1956, in the office of the Public Relations Committee on the corner of Broad and South Water Streets.

The following persons representing the named organizations were present:

Messrs. Maurice F. Kiley, Robert A. Hardy, Alexander M. Craig, John McGlinn from the Public Relations Committee; Albert E. Whitehill, Chamber of Commerce; George W. Jones, Robert Caldwell, Nantucket Historical Association; Kenneth Pease, John L. Hardy, Selectmen; Mrs. Byron Coggins, Civic League.

At this meeting it was suggested that representatives from the following organizations make up a permanent steering committee: Public Relations Committee, Board of Selectmen, Nantucket Historical Association, Historic Districts Commission, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Parent-Teachers Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Civic League.

The committee subsequently formed consisted of the following personnel:

Robert Caldwell, Nantucket Historical Association; John Grout, Civic League; John L. Hardy, Board of Selectmen; Robert A. Hardy, Public Relations Committee; George W. Jones, Nantucket Historical Association; Sidney H. Killen, Fishermen's Association; Walter E. Knott, Finance Committee; Lincoln Lewis, American Legion; Edgar F. Orpin, Rotary Club; Mrs. Charles Stackpole, Parent-Teacher Association; Albert E. Whitehill, Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Robert L. Young, Maria Mitchell Association.

The elected officers were: George W. Jones, President; Albert E. Whitehill, Secretary; Edgar F. Orpin, Finance Officer.

During the course of its three years of existence the following changes took place:

Mr. John Grout was replaced by Mr. Harold C. Beach, who in turn was succeeded by Mr. W. Ripley Nelson as representative of the Civic League.

Mr. John L. Hardy, Selectman, was replaced by Mr. Walter S. Barrett of that Board.

Mr. Albert E. Whitehill was replaced by Mr. John H. Golden from the Chamber of Commerce who took Mr. Whitehill's place as secretary of the committee.

On May 14, 1957, Mr. Edward J. Teran, of Boston, Mass., was hired as public relations agent and technical director for the celebration. He worked diligently through 1957 and seemed to have the detail well in hand when he was taken seriously ill and died in January, 1958.

This necessitated the hiring of a new agent and making a new start. After considering several applicants the selection of Newsome & Co., of Boston, was made and they continued in the capacity of Publicity Agent and Director throughout the celebration.

Mrs. John Cloud of that firm, having personal charge of this account, and Mr. Paul Newsome made numerous visits here and important contacts on the mainland in connection with this work.

A large number of suggestions for the celebration were considered, many of which had to be discarded for various reasons.

A final schedule of events listed 103 and the items for sale as souvenirs were reduced to seven as follows: Car Emplems (in form of 300th seal); Tiles (with map of Nantucket and 300th seal); Historic maps of the Island; Historic Prints (showing some 40 Nantucket structures); Glasses (with 300th seal); Matches (with 300th seal on folder); Rubber Stamps (of 300th seal).

A booklet was submitted by The Inquirer and Mirror and after approval by the Steering Committee was published as an official booklet for the event.

The committee has been successful in keeping expenditures within the appropriated and available funds which was far from being without difficulties. At the close of our account there will be a substantial balance to be turned back to the Town.

It is the feeling of the committee that the celebration was successfully accomplished as a result of the cooperation of literally hundreds of those interested in Nantucket and willing to work hard for the proper recognition of the past 300 years of life here on the Island.

There were many disappointments when it was necessary due to weather or other causes to cancel scheduled events. However, there were 75 events which were successfully completed and, as time tends to obscure these events, I list them below:

Nantucket Birthday Card Contest; Congratulatory resolution by the Massachusetts Legislature; P-TA Regional Conference; Nantucket Exhibit at State House; Nantucket Photo Competition; Arts and Crafts Exhibit, Institution for Savings, Boston; Nantucket Day in Massachusetts Public Schools; Press briefing (Brigantine "Yankee"); Meeting of Massachusetts Press Association; Three Nantucket Community Orchestra Concerts; Nantucket salutes brigantine "Yankee"; Opening day of celebration, High School Band, Birthday Cake; Macy Family Reunion; Boston Symphony Orchestra (two concerts); 10 Nantucket Holiday Lectures; Sheep Shearing; Street decorations and signs; Five "Isle of the Whalers" Lectures; Airport Open House; July 2nd Celebration, clam bake, and historical speech; Anniversary Baby; Redmen's Ball; Five Celebrity Concerts; Four Square Dances; Coffin Family Reunion; Veteran Motor Car Club Meet; Rose Sunday at Congregational Church; Open Houses by the DAR; Six Whaling Seminar Lectures; Nantucket Historical Association Annual Meeting; Professional Golf Exhibitions and Clinic; 567th Air Force Band Concert; Celebration by Methodist Church of their 160th Anniversary; Firemen's Muster; Visit of USS Miller; Three Navy Band Concerts; Presentation of "Scroll to Captain William Mooers" by Admiral Estes; Main Street Fete; Hydrangea Sunday at Congregational Church; Flying Dutchmen International Sailing Trials; Bunker Family Reunion; North American National Championship Races of Flying Dutchmen; Folger Family Reunion, Nantucket Commemorative Parade; Hussey Family Reunion; Meeting of American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Civic League Garden Tours.

The accompanying scrap books will give in detail most of the publicity and activities which took place and I will therefore omit a detailed account of the individual events.

The committee appreciates the complimentary letter received from your board in recognition of their endeavors.

In conclusion I wish to express their gratitude for the cooperation received from the Selectmen on many occasions and recommend that the above-mentioned two scrap books together with the records of this committee's meetings and the office sign which was displayed on the 300th office building be presented to the Nantucket Historical Association for preservation and exhibit.

Sincerely,
Nantucket 300th Birthday
Steering Committee
George W. Jones
President
Edgar F. Orpin
Finance Officer
Annette P. Stackpole
Robert A. Hardy
W. Ripley Nelson
Walter C. Knott
Lincoln E. Lewis
Sidney H. Killen
Walter S. Barrett

Jan. 9, 1960

300th Birthday Fete Report Given

Special to The Standard-Times

NANTUCKET, Jan. 2—An estimated $1,000 will be returned to the Town of Nantucket from the $35,000 appropriated to pay the expenses of the 300th Birthday Celebration held last year, the Board of Selectmen was told by George W. Jones, chairman of the celebration steering committee. The town appropriated $5,000 in 1957; $10,000 in 1958, and $20,000 last year for the celebration expenses.

Mr. Jones read a written report of the activities of his committee and the celebration events. He also turned over to the selectmen the records of committee meetings, two scrapbooks containing samples and pictures of publicity sent out all over the country concerning the celebration, and two boxes of photographs taken of the various events with many scenes of the island.

"We have about $1,300 in our account at the present time with a few small bills to be taken care of and with this in mind it is hoped by the committee to return about $1,000 to the town treasurer. When our ledger is closed we will also turn this over to the board," Mr. Jones stated.

Gift to Association

Chairman Jones told the selectmen that his committee had a definite recommendation to make regarding disposition of the books and property of the 300th Birthday Steering Committee. He stated, "We recommend that the two scrapbooks, together with the records of the committee's meetings and the sign which was displayed on the 300th office building near Steamboat Wharf be presented to the Nantucket Historical Association for preservation and exhibit and that the two boxes of photographs be given to the public relations committee for possible use in island publicity."

On a motion offered by Selectman Sidney H. Killen the board formally adopted the recommendations.

In the written report the committee stated that there were 10? events scheduled for the year-lon; celebration and, that after some cancellations due to weather and other causes, 75 events were successfully completed. A few of the major events carried out were the P-TA regional conference; two concerts by the Boston Symphony Orchestra; Anniversary Ball sponsored by Wauwinet Tribe of Red Men; family reunions by Coffin, Macy, Bunker, Swain, Folger and Hussey descendants; Flying Dutchmen International Sailing Trials and North American National Championship races; annual meeting of American Academy of Arts and Sciences; visit of destroyer USS Miller; Main Street Fete and the Nantucket Commemorative Parade, featuring the Civil Air Patrol and the Warren (R. I.) Indian Band with Red Men from all parts of New England.

A number of souvenirs were purchased for resale by the committee including car emblems, tiles, historic maps, tumblers, book matches and rubber stamps, all with the 300th anniversary seal. Mr. Jones said that all souvenirs have been disposed of with the exception of $207 worth of the glass tumblers which he hopes to sell to a gift shop or other dealer, before the books are closed.

Band Stand Discussed

Mr. Jones also discussed with the board the matter of the wooden band stand that was constructed on Straight Wharf for the Summer band concerts given by the 567th Air Force Band and a Navy Band from the USS Miller. He told the board that Richard Cornish, a contractor, donated the labor to construct the stand, and the wood was ordered from the Marine Lumber Company with the understanding that when the stand was dismantled the lumber company would take back and give credit for any of the lumber that is still usable. He also pointed out that J. Gordon MacDonald wired the stand for lighting purposes free of charge and that Lawrence K. Miller let the committee use the space on Straight Wharf to erect the stand, besides supplying the electrical current.

Secretary James K. Glidden said that Albert Egan Jr., president o the Marine Lumber Company placed a value of $375 to $400 on the stand. He suggested the town purchase it to have one for any future concerts.

Secretary Glidden said the question would be finding a place for storage of the stand and pointed out it would have to be cut into sections for easy handling.

"If the rest of the Board of Selectmen feel it is worthwhile to hold onto the band stand for the benefit of the town, why wouldn't it be feasible for the 300th committee to buy it out of the funds they have left? It is the end of the year and we have no funds available at the present time to do it," said Secretary Glidden.

Committee Might Pay

Mr. Jones said that he thought the 300th committee might go along with the idea of paying for it and he agreed that the town should have a band stand available.

Secretary Glidden pointed out that the committee could state, as a matter of record, that they returned $1,000 of their funds to the town and that at the request of the selectmen they had paid for the stand.

After discussing possible storage places for the stand, it was voted to ask Mr. Miller, owner of Straight Wharf, if the band stand could remain in its present location through next Summer.

Selectman Killen moved and it was voted unanimously to publicly thank Mr. Jones and the 300th committee for their successful efforts in promoting and carrying out the 300th Birthday celebration.

Newsome and Company of Boston were engaged in 1958 to act as public relation agent and technical director for the celebration. Mrs. Marie Cloud of Boston had personal charge of the Nantucket account and practically lived on the island last Summer in discharge of her duties and seeing that everything ran as scheduled.

BUNKER

30 *Attend Bunker Family Reunion Here*

Though off to a slow start, the Bunker family gathered enough momentum in the last month to hold a successful reunion dinner at the Breakers Hotel. There were 30 there.

Toastmaster Stanley Leaming of Martha's Vineyard, who was also the reunion chairman, told the gathering that 30 days ago only two had enrolled for the reunion but the "pride of a family name and what is has stood for has made so many respond in less than a month's time".

Members of the three branches of the family were there from as far west as Lawrence, Kansas and included the descendants of James Bunker of Dover, N. H., George Bunker of Charlestown, and George Bunker of Ipswich and Topsfield who was the father of William Bunker, the founder of the Nantucket Bunker family.

Members of each branch of the family arose as they were introduced by Franklin Folger Webster, Mr. Webster also read a poem written for the occasion by Mrs. Virginia BeBerus of Glen Mills, Pa., entitled Nantucket Island is Calling.

The third speaker was Colonel Laurence E. Bunker who related incidences in the Bunker family, including his own wartime experience as aide-de-camp to General Douglas MacArthur.

Prominent Bunkers discussed by Colonel Bunker in his address included the Ambassador to India, Ellsworth Bunker, and General Matthew Bunker Ridgway, both of whom sent messages to the reunion, and Ellsworth Bunker's brother, Arthur Bunker, president of Climax Molybdium Company.

Deceased family members mentioned by Colonel Bunker included Captain Eber Bunker, who went to Australia in the 1780's to become the father of the Australian whaling industry, and Captain Reuben Ramsdell Bunker, a successful commercial shipping captain.

Among the Bunkers in uniform Colonel Bunker mentioned his brother, Colonel Raymond Bunker, who, like the speaker, had served in Japan and Korea, and Colonel Paul Bunker, West Point all-American and a hero of Corregidor.

The speaker's father, Clarence A. Bunker of Wellesley Hills, who is 93 and still practicing law in Boston, was the oldest family member there. Mrs. Bunker, who is 89, was at the dinner with her husband, and the family group was completed by the presence of their daughter, Miss Miriam Bunker, also of Wellesley Hills. They are guests at the Breakers for three weeks.

The Bunkers who came the farthest distance were Mrs. Beulah Ricketts and her daughter, Miss Kathryn Bunton, of Lawrence, Kan.

Colonel Bunker told the audience that a genealogy was being prepared by former Congressman Edward C. Moran Jr. of Rockland, Me.

Group photographs were taken by another family member, Henry L. Bunker of Swarthmore, Pa.

Aug. 25, 1955

Bunker Family Reunion

The Bunker family reunion commenced with a dinner at the Breakers Hotel last night. About thirty members of the family registered and enjoyed a pleasant evening.

Mr. Stanley Leaming made the opening address, telling a bit about the origin of the family and amusing anecdotes concerning individuals of the clan. Others at the dinner were invited to come forward with their own stories, making the affair informal and entertaining.

Mrs. Virginia Beberus, one of the organizers of the reunion will be at the Chamber of Commerce office all day today (Friday) to direct and advise members of the Bunker family during their visit.

Among those registered for the two day event are Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Bunker and family, Swarthmore, Pa.; Mr. Stanley Leaming and daughter Abigail, South Carolina; Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Bunker and family, Harwich Center; Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Wiltbank, Mrs. Edith Darling and son, Brunswick, Me.; Mr. and Mrs. Sidney M. Bunker, Westwood, Me.; Col. and Mrs. Laurence E. Bunker and family, Wellesley Hills; Mrs. Virginia Beberus, Glen Mills, Pa.; and Mrs. Walton Adams, Mrs. Elma Loines, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Mason, and Mr. Franklin Webster, all of Nantucket.

Aug. 28 1955

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